

# The BULGE BUGLE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION • VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE, INC.

VOLUME XXVII NUMBER 4

THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN

NOVEMBER 2008



**PLEASE JOIN US  
IN REMEMBERING  
ALL OF THOSE  
WHO FOUGHT IN  
THE BATTLE  
OF THE BULGE  
DECEMBER 16, 2008  
ARLINGTON CEMETERY  
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA**

*Page 16*





**VETERANS OF THE  
BATTLE OF THE BULGE,  
INC.**  
P.O. Box 101418  
Arlington, VA 22210-4418  
703-528-4058

Published quarterly, *THE BULGE BUGLE* is the official publication of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge.

**Publisher/Chief Editor:**

George Chekan  
9th Infantry Division

**Contributing Editors:**

Robert F. Phillips  
23th Infantry Division

**Historical Research:**

John D. Bowen  
Associate Member

**ELECTED OFFICERS:**

**President:**

Demitri "Dee" Paris  
5th Armored Division

**Executive Vice President:**

John J. Dunleavy  
737th Tank Battalion

**Vice President/Membership:**

Robert F. Phillips  
29th Infantry Division

**Vice President/Chapters:**

John E. McAuliffe  
87th Infantry Division

**Vice President/Military Affairs:**

Stanley A. Wojtusik, Sr.  
105th Infantry Division

**Vice President/Public Affairs:**

George L. Watson  
87th Infantry Division

**Treasurer:**

William P. Tayman  
87th Infantry Division

**Corresponding Secretary:**

Dorothy S. Davis  
57th Field Hospital

**Recording Secretary:**

John D. Bowen  
Associate Member

**Administrative Director:**

Nancy Monson 703-528-4058

**TRUSTEES:**

**Three Years:**

Ralph Bozorth  
Associate Member

Neil B. Thompson

740th Tank Battalion  
Alfred H.M. Shehab  
38th Cavalry Division

**Two Years:**

James David Bailey  
106th Infantry Division

**Addition Trustees**

will be appointed  
in the future.

**One Year:**

Thomas R. Chambers  
5th Armored Division

Thomas Sweeney

Associate Member

**Additional Trustee**

to be appointed.

**HISTORICAL FOUNDATION:**

**President:** Alfred H.M. Shehab  
38th Cavalry Division

**VBOB PAST PRESIDENTS:**

Clyde D. Boden\* 1981-84  
Robert J. VanHouten 1984-86

George Chekan 1986-88  
2003-05

William T. Greenville\* 1988-90

Darrell Kuhn\* 1990-92

William R. Hemphill\* 1992-93

William P. Tayman 1993-94

Grover C. Twiner\* 1994-95

Stanley Wojtusik 1995-97

2006-07

George C. Linthicum\* 1997-99

John J. Dunleavy 1999-2001

Louis Cunningham 2001-03

\*Deceased

**CHAPTER PRESIDENTS**

**\*ALABAMA\***

GEN. GEORGE S. PATTON, JR. (XI)  
James W. Ammons 205-425-8878  
5610 Pocahontas Rd  
Bessemer, AL 35022-8316

**\*ARIZONA\***

ARIZONA (XXVI)  
Philip R. France 480-325-2695  
3330 E Main St  
Mesa, AZ 85213-8647

**SOUTHERN ARIZONA (LIII)**

George W. McGee 520-298-3220  
7830 E Hampton St  
Tucson, AZ 85715-4214

**\*BELGIUM\***

5TH FUSILIERS OF BELGIUM (XXXVIII)  
Marcel D'Haese  
Boulevard du Souverain 4914  
1160 Brussels, Belgium

**\*CALIFORNIA\***

FRESNO (V)  
Arthur Steffensen 559-266-2997  
7469 S Cedar Ave  
Fresno, CA 93725-9749

GEN. GEORGE S. PATTON, JR. (XIII)  
Chapter is now defunct

**GOLDEN GATE (X)**

Doris Davis 650-654-0101  
889 Bauer Dr  
San Carlos, CA 94070-3613

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (XVI)**

Gordon Heame 818-784-8980  
4363 Hayvenhurst Ave  
Encino, CA 91436

**SAN DIEGO (LI)**

Robert D. Schrell 858-274-5738  
2530 San Joaquin Ct  
San Diego, California 92109

**\*CONNECTICUT\***

CONNECTICUT YANKEE (XL)  
Richard Egan 203-634-0974  
79 Alcove St  
Meriden, CT 06451

**\*COLORADO\***

ROCKY MOUNTAIN (XXXIX)  
A. Wayne Field 719-598-2234  
PO Box 7247  
Colorado Springs, CO 80933-7247

**\*DELAWARE\***

BRANDYWINE VALLEY CHAPTER (LXVI)  
Charles Gaffney 302-762-3023  
907 Shipley Rd  
Wilmington, DE 19803-4927

**\*FLORIDA\***

CENTRAL FLORIDA (XVIII)  
Contact: Robert L. Stevenson 407-644-9997  
2133 Lake Dr  
Winter Park, FL 32789

**FLORIDA CITRUS (XXXII)**

Gerald V. Myers 863-686-2121  
320 E Palm Dr  
Lakeland, FL 33803-2650

**INDIAN RIVER FLORIDA (XLI)**

John Gaynor 321-549-3529  
901 Culppepper Ave  
Paln Bay, FL 32909

**SOUTHEAST FLORIDA (LXII)**

George Fisher 561-585-7086  
3453 S Ocean Blvd #503  
Paln Beach, FL 33480

**GOLDEN TRIANGLE (XLVIII)**

Fred D. Parks 352-589-2109  
22 Turquoise Way  
Eustis, FL 32726

**FLORIDA SOUTHWEST CHAPTER (LXVII)**

Vincent Runowich 727-323-3793  
4063 10th Ave N  
St. Petersburg, FL 33713

**\*INDIANA\***

NORTHERN INDIANA (XXX)  
Warren A. Goodlad 219-663-4045  
770 Rosslare Pl  
Crown Point, IN 46307

**CENTRAL INDIANA (XLVII)**

Robert R. Cooper 317-291-2668  
3436 Beller Ave  
Indianapolis, IN 46224-1920

**\*IOWA\***

IOWA (XXXIV)  
(Chapter no longer functioning)

**HAWKEYE STATE (XLIV)**

Harold R. Lindstrom 515-278-0081  
4105 75th St  
Des Moines, IA 50322-2551

**\*MARYLAND-DC\***

MARYLAND/D.C. (III)  
Earle O. Edmonds 410-647-5215  
PO Box 79  
Arnold, MD 21012

**\*MASSACHUSETTS\***

LAMAR SOUTTER/CENTRAL  
MASSACHUSETTS (XXII)  
John E. McAuliffe 508-754-7183  
425 Pleasant St  
Worcester, MA 01609

CAPE COD & THE ISLANDS (LVIII)  
(President's name needed)

**\*MICHIGAN\***

WEST MICHIGAN (XXIII)  
James E. Wibby 231-928-2995  
4449 Audubon Dr  
Traverse City, MI 49686-3887

**GREAT LAKES (XXI)**

Chapter now defunct

**\*MISSISSIPPI\***

MISSISSIPPI (XXXIII)  
Manning Cooper 601-825-4479  
78 Fern Valley Rd  
Brandon, MS 39042

**\*MISSOURI\***

GATEWAY (XXV)  
V. Kent Stephens 618-344-1616  
107 Bluffview Lane  
Collinsville, IL 62234

**\*NEW JERSEY\***

PETER F. LESLIE, JR. (LIV)  
Cerald E. Mount 973-697-5875  
40 Old Hoop Pole Rd  
Clark Ridge, NJ 07438

**FORT MONMOUTH (LVI)**

Edward Tunell 732-264-5447  
3 Chestnut Dr  
Hazlet, NJ 07730

**FORT DIX/MCGUIRE AFB (LX)**

Lloyd Orth 856-235-0504  
10 Locust Ct  
Mount Laurel, NJ 08054

**SOUTH JERSEY (LXI)**

Gus Epple (VP) 609-463-9690  
45 S Desea Dr  
Cape May Court House, NJ 08210-2041

**\*NEW YORK\***

CENTRAL NEW YORK (II)  
(Chapter no longer functioning)

**MOHAWK VALLEY (XXVIII)**

Kenneth H. Rowland 315-736-5836  
10 Pulaski St  
New York Mills, NY 13417

**HUDSON VALLEY (IL)**

James A. Wilson 518-393-2384  
19 Park Pl  
Schenectady, NY 12305-1524

**STATEN ISLAND (LII)**

William Abell 917-299-9766  
297 Clarke Ave  
Staten Island, NY 10306

**GENESSEE VALLEY (LVII)**

David Bush 585-482-2359  
147 Landing Park  
Rochester, NY 14625

**MID-HUDSON VALLEY (LIX)**

Duncan Trueman 914-986-6376  
29 Overhill Ln  
Warwick, NY 10990-3317

**LONG ISLAND (LXIII)**

David Saltman 516-221-5096  
1252 Campbell Rd  
Wantagh, NY 11793-6307

**\*NORTH CAROLINA\***

NORTH CAROLINA (IX)  
William R. Strickland 910-897-8295  
471 Turlington Rd  
Dunn, NC 28334

**\*NORTH DAKOTA\***

NORTH DAKOTA (XX)  
Harry Swendsen (Secretary) 701-567-2308  
PO Box 55  
Hettinger, SD 58639

**\*OHIO\***

BLANCHARD VALLEY (XLII)  
Richard H. Switzer 419-435-5277  
4361 N U.S. 23  
Fostoria, OH 44830

**OHIO BUCKEYE (XXIX)**

John Kalagidis 330-492-2214  
2545 58th St NE  
Canton, OH 44721-3451

**GEN. D. D. EISENHOWER (XXXV)**

Richard M. Shape  
211 Oakcrest Ct  
Russells Point, OH 43348-9508

**NORTH COAST OHIO (XXXVI)**

Frederic H. Harf 440-234-5732  
323 Westbridge Dr  
Berea, OH 47017-1562

**ALTON LITSENBERGER (LXVII)**

Richard H. Wheeler 614-267-7478  
191 E Royal Forest Blvd  
Columbus, OH 43214-2125

**\*PENNSYLVANIA\***

DELAWARE VALLEY (IV)  
Stanley Wojtusik 215-637-4191  
9639 Wissinoming St  
Philadelphia, PA 19114

**SUSQUEHANNA (XIX)**

George K. Waters 717-488-6311  
303 Honesdale Rd  
Waymart, PA 18472

**WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA (XIV)**

Leroy Schaller 724-238-2297  
1839 Route 259  
Bolivar, Pennsylvania 15923

**OHIO VALLEY (XXXI)**

Pete Yanchik 724-375-6451  
1151 Airport Rd  
Aliquippa, Pa 15001

**SOUTHCENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA (XLV)**

George F. Schneider 717-464-9442  
237 Willow Valley Dr  
Lancaster, PA 17602-4782

**LEHIGH VALLEY (LV)**

Morris D. Metz 610-252-3694  
125 Richard Garr Rd  
Easton, PA 18040-6916

**READING (LXIV)**

Samuel B. Scales 610-921-2568  
3419 Foster Ln  
Reading, PA 19605

**CUMBERLAND VALLEY (LXV)**

John W. Fague 717-530-8817  
306 Lurgan Ave  
Shippensburg, PA 17257

**\*RHODE ISLAND\***

RHODE ISLAND (XXIV)  
Manuel Riberio 401-253-7369  
50 Greylock Rd  
Bristol, RI 02809-1631

**\*SOUTH CAROLINA\***

SOUTH CAROLINA (VII)  
David R. Hubbard 803-787-1865  
1824 Belmont Dr  
Columbia, SC 29201-2814

**\*TEXAS\***

GREATER HOUSTON (XXVII)  
(Chapter is functioning—  
please advise contact again.)

**BEN FREEMAN (XXXVII)**

Leon St. Pierre 903-561-7116  
3325 Bain Pl  
Tyler, TX 75701-8871

**ALAMO (XLVI)**

John Hamilton 210-396-1904  
9606 Tioga Drive  
San Antonio, TX 78269-1904

**LONE STAR (L)**

Charles J. Kam 214-324-9200  
8042 Hunnicut Rd  
Dallas, TX 75228

**\*VERMONT-NEW HAMPSHIRE-MAINE\***

TRI-STATE (XVII)  
Edgar Bill 603-852-4502  
PO Box 336  
Milton, NH 03851

**\*VIRGINIA\***

NORTHERN VIRGINIA (XV)  
Gene McHale 703-451-1918  
8240 Carleigh Pkwy  
Springfield, VA 22152-1728

**CRATER (XLIII)**

W. Baxter Perkinson 804-590-1185  
9441 W. River Rd.  
Matouca, VA 23803-1019

**\*WASHINGTON\***

NORTHWEST (VI)  
Arthur P. Mahler 425-746-3923  
1821 122nd Ave SE  
Bellevue, WA 98005-4623

**\*WISCONSIN\***

NORTHERN WISCONSIN (I)  
(President's name needed)

CONTACT THE CHAPTER IN YOUR AREA.  
YOU WILL BE GLAD YOU DID.  
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO START A  
CHAPTER IN YOUR AREA, LET US KNOW,  
WE'LL SEND YOU NECESSARY DETAILS.



# President's Message



Demetri "Dee" Paris

## Make Veterans Day a VBOB Day

World War I ended on November 11, 1918. In 1919, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed November 11<sup>th</sup> as Armistice Day. The U.S. Congress declared November 11<sup>th</sup> a federal holiday in 1938. It continued as Armistice Day until a shoe store owner in the college town of Peoria, Kansas, Mr Al King, decided Armistice Day should be changed to include all veterans and just those of World War I. King was a member of a group of World War II War Dads. Although he was not a veteran, having been too young for World War I, he was a strong supporter of veterans.

He talked to other businessmen in Emporia, to friends, neighbors and others. The local Chamber of Commerce backed him and convinced the local

merchants to close their stores. The public schools cooperated when the Board of Education also endorsed the plan. A Veterans Day Committee was established with King serving as chairman. The local American Legion, Amvets, War Dads and Veterans of Foreign Wars were all represented on the committee.

Thus, the first Veterans Day was celebrated on November 11, 1953 in Peoria.

Other States adopted the practice and name of the day. U.S. Representative Edward Rees, who was also from Emporia, introduced a measure in Congress to recognize Veterans Day as a holiday. President Dwight D. Eisenhower changed it to Veterans Day by signing the measure on May 26, 1954. This brought all the States into the program.

The Emporia program has grown tremendously into a week long celebration. The hope the U.S. Congress will recognize them and the founding city of the present Veterans Day.

Both Great Britain and France celebrate November 11<sup>th</sup> as a holiday. In Canada, November 11<sup>th</sup> is known as Remembrance Day.

If your town has a parade or other celebration, you should participate in it with a large sign or banner identifying you a Battle of the Bulge Veterans. Those chapters that do participate invariably win special awards and notice. The parade crowds always cheer them. If walking the parade route is a problem, ride but make sure your identity is easily read by all parade watchers.

## Eligibility

You may be eligible for a VA burial allowance if:

- you paid for a veteran's burial or funeral and
- you have not been reimbursed by another government agency or some other source, such as the deceased veteran's employer and
- the veteran was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

In addition, at least one of the following conditions must be met:

- the veteran died because of a service-related disability or
- the veteran was receiving VA pension or compensation at the time of death or
- the veteran was entitled to receive VA pension or compensation, but decided not to reduce his/her military retirement or disability pay or
- the veteran died in a VA hospital, in a nursing home under VA contract, or while in an approved state nursing home.

**VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE**

**WEB SITE: [www.battleofthebulge.org](http://www.battleofthebulge.org)**

***** IN THIS ISSUE *****		
3. Presidents Message	18. Remember VBOB	*
4. Letters to Editor	19. WWII Reunions	*
5.. A Great Re-enactment	20. Eye on Freedom	*
6. Vivid Memories	21. VBOB Ohio Reunion	*
7. Three Enemies	23. Carlisle Speech	*
9. Election of Officers	25. More on Mauldin	*
10. The Affair	26. Fated to be Friends	*
12. VBOB Needs You	27. Recalling the Bulge	*
13. Total Frustration	28. Tucson, AZ	*
14. Socks Dry / Pow	29. VBOB Quartermaster	*
15. VBOB Highway	30. This was 1945	*
16. VBOB 64 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	31. VBOB Certificate	*
*****		



**SARGE SAYS...**  
**Don't Be Delinquent**  
**Pay Your Dues**  
**NOW!**

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### A NEW, PLEASED ASSOCIATE MEMBER

To our Buddies and Survivors,

I very much recall the stories and recall the fighting you all made in denying the Germans their battle target in the Bulge.

We, the 79th Infantry Division, were engaged to the east of you. We were the 313th Infantry Regiment and had attacked the Maginot line through Alsace.

Reading your account (in the Columbus newspaper) of an effort to keep alive an association of the Battle of the Bulge veterans, I wish to make a small contribution.

Enclosed is my check for \$50.00. If you wish to make me an associate member, I would be very pleased.

**John Joyce**  
Associate Member

*[We were most pleased to make Mr. Joyce an associate member and are very appreciative of the contribution.]*

### WE HELD OUR GROUND

Enclosed is my application for membership in the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. I was a member of the 44th Infantry Division, Battery A, of the 157th Field Artillery Battalion. The 157th was the medium artillery unit which supported the entire division. I was a radio operator in a forward observer team.

During the Battle of the Bulge, the 44th was assigned to hold a three division front so other divisions (the 35th and 87th) could be sent to the Bulge. The Germans, sensing that our front was "thin" and vulnerable because of this strategy, launched an attack on New Year's Eve of 1944. The 17th SS Panzer Grenadiers attacked, dressed in white snow suits so they would blend into the snow on the ground. There was difficult infantry fighting and our artillery killed Germans in droves but the 44th held its ground.

**Jean M. Keneipp**  
44 INF 157 FA BN A

### THE BRAVE RIFLES -

### THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

This award winning DVD, produced by Laurence Mascott, who served with the 83rd Infantry Division and fought in the Battle of the Bulge was shown at our reunion in Columbus, OH. This DVD can be ordered by sending a check for \$ 23, made out to:

**TRINA MASCOTT**  
72310 Merry Vale Way  
Palm Desert, CA 92260

## A LETTER OF THANKS

*(This letter was received in response to the attendance of Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge at an assembly at the Orange Middle School at our recent Columbus, Ohio, Reunion.)*

Dear Mr. Santagata & Ms. Hopkins:

(Dan Santagata served with the 5th Infantry Division)

I just wanted to thank you guys for coming and spending time with me, and telling me about your experience in the Battle of the Bulge. I thought that it was very interesting that the Germans would ask to find out if you were an American. One thing that surprised me was that you love your Country so much that you lied about your age just to serve your Country.

I am so sorry that you lost a lot of your friends in this War. I know how it feels when you lose someone that's close to you. I can't believe that you guys had to sleep on the floor on top of the snow. I just want to thank you for fighting in the Battle of the Bulge, if you hadn't gone to war we wouldn't have the freedom that we have today. Thank you.

Sincerely  
**Isatu Kami**  
Orange Middle School

## FLORIDA SOUTHEAST CHAPTER

Chapter President George Fisher, advised that his chapter will hold a gala 64th Anniversary luncheon on Sunday, December 14th.

Guest speaker will be Major General Wayne Jackson, a career officer who has served in various overseas theaters. Invited guests will be troops from Iraq and Afghanistan.

If you would like further information, please contact George at 561-585-7086. □

## DON'T FORGET OUR NEW YEAR'S TOAST

**In tribute to all who served in the Battle of the Bulge, let's all drink a toast again this year (the tenth year). The choice of beverage is yours. Again this year the time will be: Noon—Pacific time; 1:00 p.m.—Mountain time; 2:00 p.m.—Central time; and 3:00 p.m.—Eastern time on New Year's Day.**

**It's our special way to be together again, even it is only in our thoughts. We shared so much so many years ago, we should remember those we were with and be grateful for each and every one.**

**Comments from our members indicate that many of you join in this special observance. Let us hear from you.**

**A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR TO EACH OF YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES. □**

*"As you get older - don't slow down. Speed up. There's less time left."*

-Malcom Forbes



## A GREAT RE-ENACTMENT

George Wisniewski  
Headquarters Company  
48th Armored Infantry Battalion  
7th Armored Division

I joined a local reenactment group that represents the 99th Infantry Division. They were also in the Battle of the Bulge and were nicknamed "Battle Babies" as they were newly arrived and replaced the 2nd Division's positions.

I have been with the reactors for four years and we have entered parades, dedications, "Living History" events with the Boy Scouts, senior centers and schools and different organizations. We also had our own Utah Beach. This past August we went to Michigan to an air show called "Thunder Over Michigan."



The Michigan event was my very best. We had tanks, half-tracks, trucks, front cards, jeeps, etc. The Germans had their own vehicles and they did five battles.

As I was the only WWII veterans participating, they had me ride in the half-tracks and a light tank. It was great. That was the first time I did that since I was in WWII. The vehicles were of the type that were used in 1943, 1944, and 1945.

We ate in American and German field kitchens.

Sunday services were with a real Catholic priest who was the chaplain in the field with his jeep hood where the altar was set.

We didn't wash for three days--just like we did in Europe. ■

---

### CHECK TO SEE IF YOUR DUES ARE DUE.

THE DATE THEY WERE DUE IS JUST ABOVE YOUR LAST NAME ON THE MAILING INFORMATION USED TO MAIL THIS NEWSLETTER TO YOU.

MAILING DUES REMINDERS HAS BECOME A VERY EXPENSIVE ENDEAVOR.

YOU CAN HELP BY SENDING YOUR DUES PROMPTLY.

## DEDICATED TO THE ENGINEERS OF WWII

Ted Moskowitz  
1260th Engineer Combat Battalion

While rummaging through my old memorabilia, I came across a poem I wrote in 1944 that was printed in the "Pup Tent Poets" section of the *Stars and Stripes*. I would like to share it, and dedicate it to all of my fellow engineers in WWII.

### "A Study in Red"

*Through Drippy, Drainy Drudgery  
With Troublesome, Tiresome Toil  
We Wander Wet and Weary  
On Sordid, Soggy Soil  
When Life and Love and Laughter  
Have Forever Floor Our Fears  
How Many Will Remember  
The Tireless, Fireless, Fearless, Beerless  
Excellent Engineers* ■

---

## CAN YOU HELP?

Associate member Andre R. Meurisse is seeking information on an American soldier Killed in the Battle of the Bulge on December 29, 1944.

His name is **PEYTON C. FRAVEL**, who was a corporal with the **FIRST INFANTRY DIVISION, 26TH INFANTRY REGIMENT**.

He is buried in Henri-Chapelle with a little white cross which bears his serial number: 33 121 166. His state home is listed thereon as Virginia.

The group who honors his grave would appreciate knowing more about Peyton and whether or not he has relatives.

If you can help write to Andre at: Hinter der Molkerei, 2; B 4760 Bullingen; Belgium. ■

---

## RHODE ISLAND CHAPTER ON PARADE

**Manny Ribeiro, 11th Armored Division**, advises that the Rhode Island Chapter participated July 4th in the longest running parade in the country.

Those who participated were: **Pat Grimo, 17th Field Artillery Observation Battalion; Frank Marshal, 84th Infantry Division; Ray Patterson, 80th Infantry Division, 317th Infantry Regiment; and Wilfred Cherron, 78th Infantry Division.**

They carried the VBOB Banner during the parade.

Thanks, Manny, for the information ■



## VIVID MEMORIES

**Delbert E. Bordner  
26th Infantry Division  
328th Infantry Regiment  
Company C**

[Edited] On December 13, 1944, our division was relieved by the 87th Division after two month and seven days of active combat. We moved to Metz, France, for R&R and to get our ranks replenished. I was a 60mm mortar squad leader in Company C's weapons Platoon. I received four men to fill out my five-man squad, as I was the only one that was left when we were relieved.



*Left to Right: Sgt. Del Bordner, Captain Paul Moize, when I returned from the hospital.*

The R&R didn't last long because on December 20, 1944, we were heading north to attack the Bulge.

In late November, 1944, my squad leader, Teddy Witowski, received a battle field commission to 2nd lieutenant and became our platoon leader. I was promoted to squad leader.

About the same time, another friend, Paul Moize, a rifle squad S/Sgt, received a battle field commission to 2nd lieutenant, and promoted to a platoon leader.

The first few days of the Bulge were chaotic with fire fights in all directions. Our CO, Capt. Ed Kuligowski, became a POW. Paul Moize, who had just received his battlefield commission, was promoted to 1st lieutenant and became our CO. (All of our original officers had either been killed, wounded, captured, or transferred.) In my opinion, the promotion of Paul Moize was one of the best decisions I can recall.

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day I will never forget. The attack started the evening of December 24, 1944, lasted all night, and the town was cleared (Arsdorf, Luxembourg) by about noon on the 25th. I don't know how it was accomplished, but our cooks got a turkey dinner, with all the trimmings, to us Christmas night.

The date of January 9, 1945, was a red letter day for me. That's when my luck ran out.

We were in a thick forest near Wiltz, Luxembourg, in deep

snow and sub-zero weather. Our 60mm mortars were of no use in the forest, so our three mortar squads became bazooka teams.

Our 328th History Book indicates that on January 9, 1945, the 1st Battalion advanced 1,000 meters against determined enemy resistance--this I don't know.

My bazooka team was attached to the lead rifle platoons. We had possibly moved out about 25 meters when I received a bullet in the neck. A medic administered first aid and I was evacuated. I'll always remember back at a hospital, the surgeon telling me that I was a lucky man because the bullet missed my spine by about 1/2 inch.

Floyd Brown and I were room mates at Boston College in the ASTP. When the program closed, we both ended up in the mortar section of the same platoon of the 328th. We both became squad leaders at the same time. Floyd, also, had a bazooka team on January 9th. Later in the day, he was severely wounded by artillery shrapnel and nearly lost a leg. He was evacuated back to the States and was hospitalized for over two years.

I was in the hospital and rehab for about two months before I rejoined my company. When I returned Paul Moize was now a captain. He placed me in charge of the mortar section until the war ended.

I left the company in November, 1945. By this time Paul Moize was a major assigned to another battalion. Not bad, S/Sgt to major in about ten months. He was an outstanding leader.

It was an honor and privilege to serve with the gallant warriors of the Yankee Division. ■

---

## REUNIONS

**30TH INFANTRY DIVISION**, March 26-29, 2009, Charleston, South Carolina. Contact: 30th INF, 2915 W SR #235, Brookers, Florida 32622-5167.

---

## MEMBERS SPEAK OUT

**Pamela T. Semanik**, a new Associate Member, would like information regarding her father or her father's service. Her father, **CHESTER J. PATRZYK**, served with the **127TH AAA GUN BATTALION**. If you can provide some information, write to Pamela at 17157 Andras Dr, Walton Hills, Ohio 44146.

Sissy Carter is looking for information regarding her father and/or the 9th Field Hospital: **JIMMIE C. CARTER, 9TH FIELD HOSPITAL**. He served as a surgical technician. Dates of service: January, 1943-November

---

## Newspaper Carriers Before Being Soldiers

Sandra Lane Walker, with the Newspaper Carriers Across America, interviewed several VBOB members at the recent reunion in Columbus, Ohio. She has sent us a copy of the stories she compiled. If you would like a copy send a self-addressed, stamped envelope (42 cents) to the VBOB Office and mark on the envelope: "Newspaper," and we'll mail you a copy.



## THREE ENEMIES: GERMANS, WEATHER AND FEAR

**Thomas R. Chambers**  
**Trains Headquarters Company**  
**9<sup>th</sup> Armored Division.**

Late in the afternoon of December 16 one of the truck drivers from Trains Headquarters Company of the 9<sup>th</sup> Armored Division, having just returned from Eupen, Holland stepped into our billet at 64 Rue de Mersch in Sael, Luxembourg, and made the very quick announcement, "Something big is going on up north. There is shelling from artillery all over the place. I had to detour and go far west from my route to get back. I don't know what is going on but it must be something big."

That was my first knowledge of what has come to be known as the Battle of the Bulge. Little did I not realize at the moment the great importance of what had been unleashed nor could I understand what the outcome would mean for the Allies and the American forces in particular.

I was not the only one that was in the dark, so was Maj. Gen. John W. Leonard, Commanding the 9<sup>th</sup> Armored Division which was strung out over a distance of nearly seventy miles from near the border of Holland in the north and down to near Luxembourg City in the south. In what was thought to be the quiet sector of the line and where various combat elements of the division were completing a period of combat indoctrination.

When the German offensive broke loose the majority of General Leonard's command was attached to some other division or some element of VIII Corps in a supporting role of some sort. General Leonard had to be the most frustrated Commander in Europe. For two and a half years he had organized, shaped and trained the officers and men of the 9<sup>th</sup> Armored only to find himself out of contact and unable to exercise any control over his division as a single entity. Thus he was confounded by events beyond his control at his headquarter in Mersch, Luxembourg.

Following a series of daily, even hourly, relocations my unit along with unidentified parts of 9th Armored Division Engineers, the 89<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron and various elements of support organization were positioned roughly from Arlon, and to the west along the axis of Etalle, St. Marie, Titingy and Florenville, all in Belgium.

My unit was the Reconnaissance Platoon of Trains Headquarters Company of 9<sup>th</sup> Armored. Our equipment included an Armored car with a 37 mm gun and a single air-cooled machine gun. We had four Peeps, the Armored term for a Jeep, and a weapons carrier that was used to haul ammunition and spare ordinance. This assemblage and crews came to rest in the Town of Etalle, where we were told that it would be our job to try to stem the German attack if it were to try to go toward Rheims, the location of SHAEF Headquarters or on toward Paris.

We were part of an improvised defense that comprised three Task Forces. The first was identified as Task Force Halverson, I was told it was commanded by a Maj. Halverson of 9<sup>th</sup> Armored Engineers. It was on the Right flank of the three

forces. The second was Task Force Fiore, so named for Lt. Col. Fiore, Commander of the 89<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron. It had its Command Post in Sainte Marie and held the center position of the provisional secondary line. The third Task Force, (whose names in now lost in the fog of time) was located in the village at Titingy, Belgium, of this hastily prepared but unused defense. The front covered by these three task forces amounted to something between eight and ten miles on the southern edge of the Bulge. It was matter of strong points at cross roads or at some elevation with a clear view of a section of critical road bed.

It is believed that these three provisional Task Forces were under the command of General John Leonard, who had established 9<sup>th</sup> Armored Division Headquarters at Etalle.

Task Force Halverson was given the responsibility and the authority to snag every straggler or American soldier that was separated from his unit and came into the town of Etalle. Such individuals were impressed into the defense of various cross roads and strong points at strategic locations that could temporarily slow down a German column headed for Rheims. By buying time in such an event, Corps and Army commands would have the opportunity to further strengthen the situation. All of this was the thinking before it was known that the German's objective was Antwerp. In the course of about two and a half days, Task Force Halverson had approximately 700 troops in its command. The most important qualifications were the color of the uniform, the shape of the helmet and any kind of weapon that fired American ammunition.

On about the 21<sup>st</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup> of December, 9<sup>th</sup> Armored Ordnance delivered two cosmoline packed 105 mm howitzers to Etalle. It fell to the Recon Platoon to put these two pieces into firing order at once. Fortunately the sun was shining but the weather was as cold as the proverbial witch's tit. With a combination of gasoline, GI towels, bayonets and the cleaning brushes provided with these guns, we did fast work and before night fall had them ready for inspection. The breeches would open without a hitch, we could elevate them easily to the fullest extent and traverse them smoothly. The bores of these two guns were as clean as could be the sighting equipment was as clean as a whistle and aiming stakes were ready. Suddenly we were ready to become artillerymen.

But, who were going to be the cannoneers? The gunner in our Armored Car had a fundamental understanding of a 37 mm gun, mostly with armor piercing ammunition. The others in the platoon knew about .30 caliber ball and .50 caliber ammunition, plus a smattering of .45 caliber for Thompson subs and Grease Guns. I knew about bore sighting from sniper school in the States. So, that was it. We decided that we would bore sight the guns at a tank at about 500 yards, fire, and pray. If we did not get the tank with the first shot, he would have the second shot and that would be that. Night fall came before we could put the pieces in position for firing. Someone announced that our chow truck had some hot "C"s so off we went for some supper. When we got back, much to our chagrin, the field pieces had disappeared.

A part of the regular duty of the Recon Platoon during its time as part of Task Force Halverson was the paroling to the outposts around Etalle and at the same time ferrying "warm" men to replace those that had been on outpost duty and were so cold they could barely move. On one occasion, while

*(Continued on next page)*



### THREE ENEMIES —

picking up the cold men we found one that could not get out his hole. His feet were frozen.

Our platoon was fortunate to be billeted in the local one room school house, right in the middle of town. It was stucco and had double glass windows. Some one had put about two feet of straw on about half the tile floor. At the other end of the room there was a big pot belly stove about five feet tall. There was a pile of coal in an adjacent corner, so as far as Bulge billets were concerned, there was nothing to be asked for beyond this very comfortable situation.

Having finished the last regular outpost patrol for the afternoon the Recon Platoon was assembled in the school house soaking up the heat from the stove and chewing variously on "D" bars or fruit bars from "K" rations. For the moment, life was good. Then a runner burst into the school room and shouted, "Recon Platoon, Mount Up. Extra gasoline and extra Bazooka ammunition! Assemble at the CP at once. Every man with overcoats." With that the runner disappeared. In short order the platoon was assembled in the Company CP. At the moment a General Officer was inside. This was evidenced by the hooded Star Plate on the bumper of the automobile parked in front of the CP.

My Platoon Leader, Lt Vernon Chance, followed by Sgt. Angelo Rinaldi, my platoon sergeant, and Sgt. Sergeant Bill Smith, my section leader, went into the CP with the remainder of the Platoon waiting outside with the vehicles in the last glimmers of daylight and in the miserable cold. The briefing seemed to take forever, maybe as much as thirty or forty minutes, but it was so cold miserably sitting in the wind and just waiting.

Sergeants Rinaldi and Smith came to the first vehicle and stopped while the members of all the crews gathered to learn the mission for tonight. Soon it was apparent that the General Officer inside had received a report that there were six Tiger Tanks patrolling in force approximately six miles to our northwest. Our mission was that of determining whether or not bridges across the Semois River were still passable and, if so, to determine if they had been mined by U. S. Forces. Radio silence was to be maintained. We were to stay at the maximum intervals, so if in the event of a hostile encounter, the greater interval would improve the possibility of one or more vehicles being able to make it out to bring back the report of the findings relative to the bridges. If any German tanks are sighted, break off contact, determine the tanks location and return to the CP after we have accomplished the reconnaissance of the bridges.

With that instruction the patrol was off with the armored car in the lead. We very quickly climbed out of the valley of the Semois River and broke on to a plateau approximately 150 feet above the river. The high terrain was gently rolling agricultural land with big sweeping spreads of perhaps as much as fifty acres or more in the large fields. The full moon and the snow covered landscape made it possible to see 500 yards as clear as day, but we could see nothing in the shadows. The covering of loosely laid snow seemed to muffle the sound of our engines which suited our purpose perfectly. After about twenty minutes, traveling at perhaps ten miles an hour a barn came into view. Everything was clear where the moon light struck and we could make out details of the building with ease. The barn was located at a ninety degree turn of the road and seemed to have a small plot of triangular shaped land right

at the ninety degree bend in the road. This small piece of ground was in a shadow cast by the barn.

As we approached we were challenged from the dark shadow cast by the barn and we gave the expected countersign. When it became apparent that it was an American, our wide interval between vehicles went to hell. Everybody wanted to know what was going on. We soon learned it was a soldier from 9<sup>th</sup> Armored Engineers. He was manning a 57 mm anti tank gun, but was not very happy with his fire power. He explained that earlier in the day he had shot a German tank in the rear with his 57, all that happened was that the "Kraut wiggled his ass at me and kept on going." The engineer was not looking for a fight that night.

Our patrol continued on the plateau and after a bit the column slowed to about 5 miles an hour due to the extra chilling factor that came from driving with wind shields down. The snow covered fields made a beautiful sight in the moonlight but that did nothing for us as we continued to patrol beyond the third and fourth hour, finally coming to the first of three bridges that we were to check. It was distinct relief to see that we were the first vehicles to make tracks over the bridge since the snow had fallen.

My preparation for the patrol included summer underwear, long Johns, OD uniform, wool knit sweater, field jacket and overcoat with a pair of overshoes (my only pair while in the army) that I had picked up in an aid station about the second day of the battle. Add to that a wool scarf and gloves. It was as though the cold was made of needles that pierced my uniform and shot straight to the marrow of my bones.

Finally, I put on my rubber raincoat in the attempt to keep a little bit of warmth in my body. All the while I wiggled my toes to keep circulation up.

Driving away from the first bridge I was suddenly filled with a grand upsurge of euphoria. It would begin in my abdomen and rise up through my chest and then into my head. I felt it was such a wonderful and beautiful world. Then I realized that something was happening that should not be happening and I would shake myself and say, "What's wrong with you man, it is not a wonderful world. You are out here looking for a bunch of German tanks. Wake yourself up and come to reality." Then I would beat myself with my fists in the attempt to make my blood flow faster.

The hallucinations continued for numerous episodes over the next hour or so. Each new episode became a bit more euphoric and considerably more difficult to suppress.

We returned to the CP at about 02:00 hours. To my happiness, the Platoon Sergeant and my Section Leader went to give the report of the patrol and sent the rest of us to the school house. Maybe six or eight soldiers were asleep on the straw and there was plenty of room for more. I wanted to warm up a bit before I hit the straw, so I proceeded to make myself a cup of hot chocolate. The water in my canteen was frozen hard. Fortunately there was water in a can near the stove, so I filled my canteen cup and emptied a pack of hot chocolate mix into the water and proceeded to heat it with the glowing bed of coals that shone out from the open door of the stove. The shortcoming to this procedure was that I was holding my cup with my right hand with my four fingers gripping the handle. I was so cold that I got a first degree burn on my fingers before I realized how hot the radiant heat from the coals really was. Nonetheless, the water did get warm and

*(Continued on next page)*



## THREE ENEMIES (Continuation)

I had my hot chocolate. My fingers remained sore for several days.

A few hour later, the outpost patrols began again.

By Christmas Day we had moved to another house and we found some Christmas tree decorations. Some enterprising soul went and got a tree and the festivities began. We secured a case of ten-in-one rations and we began to supplement with various "Cs" and "Ks". I discovered a butcher shop that had a show case full of small steaks, about 4 or 5 ounces each and I bought all that I had money to pay for. I went to our new billet and showed my find and immediately raised enough money to get enough steaks for each of us to have two a piece.

It made for a great Christmas dinner. It was the only meal in my two and a half years in the army that I had a seated meal with our company officer.

One thing about being a PFC, a scout and machine gunner, in any military organization, is that one is not consulted very often about the grand plan. That was my case. I am not sure what took place in the other Task Forces. As a matter of fact I was unaware of the existence of the other two until I discovered them while doing some research in the National Archives at College Park, MD.

But I do recall that we left Task Force Halverson about January 6<sup>th</sup>, 1945, when Division Headquarters and certain other units were moved to the south in France in the general vicinity of Metz. The division received new equipment and armaments and the ranks of the combat units were refilled first with officers and men had been hospitalized and were returned to their units plus a big contingent of men that came through the Replacement Depot System.

In looking back, I have to thank God for having pulled me out of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Armored Infantry Battalion and for placing me in Trains Headquarters. The 52<sup>nd</sup> suffered casualties of killed, captured or wounded to the extent of 74% of its enlisted complement and 28% of its commissioned ranks with those losses taking place in the relatively short period of the Battle of the Bulge.



"PAPA! I THINK WE HAVE BEEN LIBERATED."

POWERS TO - B.M.

10.34.60 AY

PETRIK

©

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS 2009 VBOB EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

At the 13 September VBOB Membership Meeting in Columbus Ohio the following Executive Council officers were elected.

**President: Demetri Paris**

9<sup>th</sup> Armored Division

**Executive Vice-President: Ralph Bozorth**

Associate Member

**Vice-President, Membership: George L. Watson**

87<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division

**Vice-President, Chapters: John E. Mc Auliffe**

87<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division

**Vice-President, Military Affairs: Thomas W. Sweeney**

Associate Member

**Treasurer: Neil B. Thompson**

740<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion

**Corresponding Secretary: Mary Ann D. Bowen**

Associate Member

**Recording Secretary: John D. Bowen**

Associate Member

**Trustee, Three Year Term: Thomas R. Chambers**

9<sup>th</sup> Armored Division

**Trustee, Three Year Term: Bert Rice**

Associate Member

**Trustee, Three Year Term: John R. Schaffner**

106<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division

**Trustee, Two Year Term: Alfred H. M Shehab**

38<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Squadron

**Trustee, Two Year Term: Robert Rhodes**

Associate Member

**Trustee, Two Year Term: Robert F. Phillips**

28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division

**Trustee, One Year Term: J. David Bailey**

106<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division

**Trustee, One Year Term: Madeleine Bryant**

Associate Member

**Trustee, One Year Term: Kenneth O. McCreedy**

Associate Member

Respectfully submitted,

John D. Bowen,

Recording Secretary

*"If you rest, you rust."*

-Helen Hayes



## THE ZACHRITZ/BLODGETT/ REAMER AFFAIR

*[The following article has been in my "use" box for quite some time. Apparently, the envelope it came in has disappeared and I have been unable to find a Shapiro on my records who served with the 78th Division. The article is amusing and I thought you would enjoy it, so here it is....]*

I was an avid student of American history and of current events, beginning with my early years in high school. I had read the unexpurgated portions of Hitler's "Mein Kampf" wherein he openly admitted his goal of world conquest. Also, the secret "Tanaka Memorial" had been discovered by an American writer in which Japan's goal of world conquest were also promulgated. As many will remember, the country, at that time, was divided between pacifist/isolationist and preparedness/interventionists. I belonged four square to that later group. Because of that, I enrolled for four years of high school ROTC followed by Advanced Course OTC at UCLA. I mention all this to illustrate my fierce resolve to be prepared myself for the great conflict I was sure was coming. And, admittedly, I did like uniforms [was a Boy Scout, too], giving and taking orders. In short, I was of the "gung ho" type.

Well, all this changed, at least temporarily, when I was summarily discharged from Officer's Candidate School during the last week of an 18-week course. My grades were excellent and I had qualified for rifle, bayonet and BAR as well as passing all practical tests. But the last exercise involved an all-night compass problem and Robertson (the officer whose picture later appeared on the cover of *Life* when he shook hands with the Russians when our forces met theirs) and I came in last early in the morning. He went directly to bed. I was starving and headed for the mess hall.

This, as you will recall, was still the very segregated South; but being a Westerner and raised to respect men for character and ability, not color, I paid little heed to the strictures imposed by the custom at the time. As I entered the mess hall door, the black mess sergeant rose and immediately offered me a table. ("Ridiculous," I thought. What a waste of time. Besides, I was starving.) I asked the sergeant to just give me a plate and inquired if he and his men would mind if I just sat down and ate with them. They didn't say yes or no; but gave me a curious stare.

In the middle of stuffing my mouth, Major Carville, our commanding officer entered (a born and bred Southerner from Louisiana with drawl to prove it) and gave me a piercing and menacing stare that was ominous. I was washed out that afternoon and given a short slip of paper on which was written, "Does not at the present time possess all the traits of an officer and gentleman." I also lost my ardor for "gung ho" along with my corporal stripes.

At this point in my life, three names appeared which absolutely altered my military. They were: Zachritz, Blodgett and Reamer. The former person I soon met; Blodgett and Reamer I have never seen but would love to find before us old timers pass on. Also, I would love to meet Zachritz.

I met Zachritz as we both trudged along with all our possessions following orders transferring us from OCS at Fort Benning,

Georgia, to the 75th Division at Camp Brickeridge, Kentucky. We reached the top of a steep hill and paused to regain our breath along with a few hundred other soldiers who, I assume, had been given similar transfer orders. Zachritz must have taken a liking to me as he quickly advised me not to continue the journey with the others down the hill to a railway loading zone. I looked at him quizzically and asked what the purpose of the delay. We only had so much time to report to the MP 1st Sgt checking off names on a roster as the first of our group was already beginning to arrive.

"We're not taking that train, Shapiro," he said calmly. I was astonished and a little annoyed.

"Zachritz, you're going to get us in trouble for deliberately avoiding an order."

"No, Shapiro," he replied. "You just relax and take it easy. I'll begin teaching you how to make the army almost enjoyable." Well, reluctantly, I did what he said. As I remarked, I had lost my gung ho spirit. This was not the army I volunteered for, anyhow. It was not fighting for the things I believed in.

The troop train appeared and a couple of hundred soldiers waiting there, following orders, were checked off, got on board, and took off.

I now looked at Zachritz. "What Now?" I asked.

"Shapiro, you just pick up your duffle bag and run as fast as you can to that MP Sgt and when you get there, just don't say anything. Let me do all the talking."

Well, after I ran down that steep hill carrying at least 80 pounds of stuff, I was in no condition to talk to anyone anyhow.

Zachritz arrived when I did, and as soon as he caught his breath, he looked longingly at the departing train and moaned, "Sergeant, sergeant, that's our train, that's our train."

The sergeant said, "O.K., you two men. You did make an effort to get here, so that is all right; but don't move from this spot. Another train is due any minute and you two will be on board."

Guess what came in? A beautiful Lincoln Zephyr with pullman beds, linen sheets, air conditioning. It was heaven. In addition, Zachritz was good enough to give me the lower berth. I looked up to him and said, "Zachritz, how in the hell did you know a stream liner was coming in next?"

"Shapiro, if you are going to make the army liveable, you have to do research."

\*\*\*\*\*

There are many more interesting learning experiences I had with Zachritz; but now I must get to those two unknown--Blodgett and Reamer.

We had gone out on bivouac many miles from our barracks to live in dust and grime while doing some kind of maneuvers. After the second day of this, Zachritz informed me that he had enough of the dust, emergency rations, no showers, etc., and thought we ought to go into town for the evening. Well, I thought he was crazy. I told him that I thought we would be court martialed.

"Shapiro," he reminded me, "you have to do some research and then have faith. Now come along." So we daringly took off, crawling out the back of our pup tents when we were sure that everyone else was asleep. Hitching a ride on a truck (Zachritz warned me to never stick out a thumb for a jeep as an officer could be aboard), we arrived near our barracks in about a half hour. I watched as Zachritz timed the two sentries, then he gave the signal when they were out of sight and we crept in, had a

*(Continued on next page)*



## AFFAIR —

luxurious shower, shed our fatigues for sun tans, and crept out going to the PX for beer and ice cream.

A little before midnight we were back in fatigues and hitching a ride on a truck back to the bivouac area. This went on for several nights until another soldier saw us sneak out and insisted on going with us. We had to assent. Coming back that night, trucks seemed to have retired from the war effort as the only jeeps seemed to be on the highway. It was now after midnight and the other soldier, a little desperate, decided to take a jeep on his own. After he disappeared, no vehicles appeared for quite awhile.

Finally, I told Zachritz we had to take any vehicle that appeared. Finally, I told Zachritz we had to take any vehicle that appeared. Finally a jeep speed by, grinding to a halt about 50 yards down the road. We were running to our doom. As we climbed into the back, Zachritz and I both notice silver eagles on the shoulders of the man in front. Fortunately, he was a big snobbish and didn't look at us. With his face straight forward, his voice boomed out, "Where are you soldiers headed?" As usual, Zachritz did the talking, informing the colonel truthfully that we had come from the bivouac area. Looking straight ahead the colonel told the sergeant to take our names. "Names!" he shouted. I was about to meekly give out "Shapiro" when Zachritz came out clear and strong, "Reamer and Blodgett, sir." And that is what the sergeant wrote down.

The next morning a full field inspection with the colonel going down the line asking every man in the battalion as he faced him, "Were you in your tent all night?" Zachritz and I lied manfully. Later, I asked Zachritz, "Who the hell are Blodgett and Reamer." He replied, "They were shipped out overseas for punishment weeks ago. That was Plan B, Shapiro if anything went wrong. Remember, Research! Research! Research! ■



"It happened on that last big raid up North, he fell off the ladder getting out of his airplane!"

## 2009 BULGE REENACTMENT

### 64th Anniversary Commemoration Battle TO HONOR VETERANS OF THE BULGE

Fort Indiantown Gap PA

27 Jan – 01 Feb 2009

The World War II Federation invites all vets to the Battle of the Bulge Reenactment this coming January and will again be honoring the WW II Veterans during the week, with a special Reception scheduled for Friday, 30 January 2009.

Veterans may arrive after 1400 to 2100 hours on Tues 27 Jan 2009. As usual, the veterans will have a hospitality suite set up in their barracks as well as memorabilia & video displays.

Veterans should bring a pillow, sheets and a blanket (or a sleeping bag) for their bunk as well as wash cloth and towel and shower clogs. Enjoy a week of camaraderie, relaxation, WWII videos, stories and hospitality and a chance to relive your basic training days in original WWII Barracks. Enjoy the transformation of the barracks area by the reenactors to WWII period and enjoy the many restored WWII vehicles. Meet reenactors who are interested in learning from WWII veterans about the period as well as the respect that they hold for you.

On Wed Veterans will visit a local school. We will also be transported by bus to the VA Hospital in Lebanon PA on Thursday morning, at 0900, for our annual visit, so we can meet with fellow veterans.

On Wed, 28 Jan the Flea Market will open at 1400 hours and will remain open through Sat, 31 Jan, opening at 1100 and closing at 1600 hours.

On Friday, the Federation will salute the Veterans with a Tactical Battle Briefing at 1630 Hours in the Community Club following a free reception for Veterans at 1600 hours (others may attend at \$15.00). At 1730 hours there will be a Wreath Laying at the VBOB Monument and 21 gun salute. As usual there will be 1940 Movies in Veterans Bldg #12-15 and hospitality in the Veterans Barracks. The cost of the event is \$72.00 which includes 5 nights bunk in the barracks and Dinner and Period Entertainment USO-type show on the Saturday night. **Veterans who attended last year will have free registration this year but you must register.**

On Sat, troops will move into the battlefield at 0900 hours. Veterans will be transported by bus for a tour of the battlefield 1030-1300 hours. At 1700 Shuttle Bus to dinner. At 1800 hours dinner will be served at the Community Club and at 2000 hours there will be an Evening of Period Entertainment during which the Veterans will act as judges for the 1940's Talent Show.

**Option A Veterans** with a bunk in the barracks for the 5 days and with Saturday Evening Dinner & Entertainment is \$72. **Option B** without Saturday Evening Dinner is \$52.00. **Option C** at \$22 is for Veterans only for Saturday Evening Dinner only and Evening of Period Entertainment, for those not staying in the barracks.

If you would like a Registration packet send a self-addressed stamped envelope to John D. Bowen, 613 Chichester Lane, Silver Spring MD 20904-3331, e-mail [johnbowen@earthlink.net](mailto:johnbowen@earthlink.net) or go to [www.wwiifederation.org](http://www.wwiifederation.org)

**Deadline is 31 Dec 2008 for Veterans.**



No doubt many of you belong to local veterans, civic, and fraternal organizations. Have you ever thought about the possibility that there may be many potential VBOB members there?

We are providing you with a flyer which you can clip out and place on your Moose, Elks, Masons, Knights of Columbus, DAV, VFW, Amvets, Rotary, Bar Association, etc., etc., bulletin board. If there's no bulletin board available, make some copies of the flyer and pass them out the next time you go. --won't you please help us?

-----clip along dotted line-----



**UNCLE SAM  
NEEDED  
YOU  
THEN...**



**VBOB  
NEEDS  
YOU  
NOW!**

- ★ Were you a soldier in the Battle of the Bulge?
- ★ Was your father, grandfather, or other family member in the BoB?
- ★ Are you interested in the history of World War II?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, you would qualify for membership in the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge (VBOB). VBOB was organized in 1981 to honor the Americans who served in the Battle of the Bulge and to remember those who never made it home.

VBOB's objectives are to:

- perpetuate the memory of the sacrifices involved,
- preserve historical data and sites,
- foster international peace and goodwill, and
- promote friendship.

In an address before the House of Commons following the Battle of the Bulge, Sir Winston Churchill said: "This is undoubtedly the greatest American battle of the war and will, I believe, be regarded as an ever famous American victory."

For further information please write:

**Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge  
P.O. Box 101418  
Arlington, Virginia 22210  
(703) 528-4058**



# MY TOTAL FRUSTRATION AND MAYBE YOUR'S TOO

**Philip Howard Gray  
78th Infantry Division  
303rd Engineer Battalion  
Company A**

*[Philip attached several documents to illustrate the matters he is concerned about; however, because of length, they are not attached.]*

Hoping that I would be coming to the 60th anniversary of the Remagen Bridgehead, a German friend called the Mayor of Remagen, who e-mailed me information on the 78th Division Association. After joining, and getting into the spirit of reminiscence, I dug out my box of WWII memorabilia and began reviewing things that had once puzzled me but had been all but forgotten during 30 years in academia where I seldom met anybody who knew first-hand what war was like.

Among the puzzles was a sheet of printed paper headed by the cachet "Battle Honors." What the hell was it? It had been sent to me just as I was nearing discharge. Going on the internet and querying 78th veterans from my company, I finally established that it was a presidential unit citation. I also found that only a few of the veterans I contacted had a firm idea that it was the highest unit award offered by the military.

I also revisited two irritations. First, that my discharge papers failed to give me credit for the Ardennes Campaign and, second, that my transferral from the infantry replacement center had cost me the Combat Infantry Badge. Up until the moment I looked at my discharge papers in June 1946, I'd assumed I was entitled to wear three stars on my EAME ribbon. Since the discharge was already written up, I took it and quietly faded back into civilian life again. Now, though, the irritation had resurfaced.

As document A indicates, I've asked for a copy of my service papers, although the likely reality is that I've provided the government with more papers than it will likely provide me.

Document B, my discharge shows the source of my irritation. The fact that the clerk gave the date of my departure as 18 Jan 45 and the date of my arrival as 18 Jan 45 demonstrates the lack of skill on the part of said clerk. Only Dr. Who's "tardis" and the Concorde airliner could provide such departure and arrival on the same date, the former machine science-fiction and the latter far in the future. Besides both dates being wrong, is the additional possibility that the clerk erred in not listing an Ardennes Campaign for me by failing to follow General Orders No. 114 (a summary of which you posted on your website), namely, "Battle participation credit for the campaign Rhineland will not be accorded during this period for operations in the area defined above." That I actually was in the "area defined above" is tacit in the fact that I was a member of the 78th Division which basically had not moved much within the area defined. That I was there "during this period for operations in the area defined above" can be shown by these additional documents (which I'm probably lucky to have retained all these years):

Document C: Individual Clothing and Equipment Record. This was handed me as I was about to leave Germany as the lucky winner of a "recuperation furlough:

lottery. I was told to keep it until somebody asked me for it. Nobody ever asked for it. It shows that in a period beginning on January 11 1945, I was issued supplies by H&S 303 Eng, this okayed by Andrew F. McGuane, 2nd Lt., Inf., 78th Division. I have no record to prove it, but shortly before this I had been issued a .45 sidearm (my MOS was heavy machine gun, infantry) in Aachen, but that sidearm was surrendered when I was shifted to the combat engineers.

Document D. Immunization Register. Probably another document I was to pass to whomever asked for it but nobody did. This shown that on 16 Jan 45 I had a typhus shot by WJG with a booster a week later.

E. Order for Re-assignment. Up until the end of my "recuperation furlough" I was obviously carried on the rolls of the 303rd Engineers and probably would have been sent back to my unit had I been on leave say to Paris or somewhere near. Since I was only a few months away from discharge time, it made sense to reassign me State-side. Accordingly, I became part of the First Service Command at Ft. Devens, helping soldiers being discharged to receive their clothing and unit patches. Note that WAC Adjust Margaret Smith (later a senator from Maine) said that I had been 12 months in my unit service. Since the army does not "round up," this means that my service records showed that I had joined Co A, 303rd Engr Bn on or before 21 January 1945.

Since I may never be able to get enough of my service records to appeal through appropriate government channels the evident errors made by the clerk typing up my discharge papers, I am endeavoring an alternative way to feel better about the whole matter by applying for membership in your organization with the frameable Battle of the Bulge certificate. ■

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE....



**"He says you can deduct these five minutes from the next ten-minute rest!"**  
—from "Private Bregger's War", published in 1944



## KEEPING HIS SOCKS DRY

[The following excerpt is from a letter written to a friend by **CHARLES G. GEORGE**, 136TH AAF BASE UNIT. It was sent to us by new Associate Member Lisa Russell, Charles' daughter. Welcome to Lisa.]

When we pulled back from the crossroads, there were about 20 in the party. We went through German fire as well as some of our own. At one time, we were close enough to a German patrol to shake their hands.

We were following a lieutenant from anti-tank. They joined us at the crossroads when their guns were over-run.

As I remember, the lieutenant was the senior officer in the group. We met a convoy somewhere in the rear. I crawled into a jeep when the convoy pulled out. The convoy stopped and the driver got out and said, "It's all yours now," (meaning the jeep).

Since I was the last vehicle in the pack, they lost me and I had a jeep for a short time. Somehow I met up with Phil Azar and the kitchen unit at Elsenborn. Someone had dug a large zig-zag trench near where I was. I was trying to dry my socks over a fire until the first shell fell to our right. After a time, I went back to drying my socks. The next shell fell in front of me and back to the zig-zag trench. When we came out of the hole, I said I didn't care because I was going to dry my socks.

By this time, it was dark and another shell came in to our left. The kitchen truck pulled out and the driver was so excited he ran off the road. We came in to a little town and saw lights in a house. We stopped and asked if they had anything to eat. Somehow, they did find some food for us.

One of the men that served us food was a doctor. One of our men (Combs') teeth would not meet, so the doctor checked him out. His jaw was broken so they sent him to the hospital. They checked my feet and found they had been frozen. They sent me back in an ambulance that held four litters. We went from Eupen to Viviers to Leige.

*[Lisa reports that her dad, as a result of his frostbite, had terrible nightmares for years and would come up out of bed slamming his feet on the floor to try to feel them.]* ■

---

## Author Looking for Personal Stories

Michael Green, author of more than 80 non-fiction books, is currently gathering material for a book titled *War Stories of the Battle of the Bulge*, which has been approved by the VBOB Executive Council. He is especially interested in veterans from that time period who have written first-person reminiscences they would be willing to share with the author. The main focus of the book would be those in the combat branches, such as armor, infantry and artillery. First-person stories can be anything from a few hundred words to 6,000 words.

The author can be reached at his e-mail address, which is [greenm48@yahoo.com](mailto:greenm48@yahoo.com) or his mailing address, which is 11 Avalon Drive, Daly City, CA 94015

## PRISONER OF WAR

[The following story excerpt was written by Joseph A. Wargo, member of VFW Post #1492 and appeared in the "Illinois VFW News." It was sent to us by **WELLINGTON SMITH**, 8TH ARMORED DIVISION.]

In November of 1944, I had the misfortune of being a reluctant guest of the Nazis. Midway enroute to our prison camp, we de-trained and were escorted to a basement of a school where we exchanged our uniforms for civilian dress. Most likely the property of the Holocaust victims. Our uniforms were used in a ruse at the Battle of the Bulge.

Our camp was located in the Sudentanland and as a consequence we were never liberated. Our captors decided to march us under guard to the American sector where to vouch that they treated us humanely hoping to receive some lenience.

With the cease fire still hours away the Russians continued strafing the roads prompting my friend and I to leave the group of 150 men at the first rest stop, reasoning two men would not be a worthy target.

Arriving in Prague and staying in a luxury hotel just vacated by Nazi officers and the citizenry treating us with affection, bringing us food and wine. Never the less, we were anxious to return back to American custody.

A Czech officer hearing of our plight offered to speak to the Russians for the loan of a truck and I was selected to represent our group of 20 men since I spoke Slav language. He had me wait on street corner while he went to fetch a jeep.

My pacing attracted the attention and curiosity of a young lady from across the street from the hotel window. Approaching me and speaking fluent English she had me satisfy her curiosity by my telling her I was an American soldier and ex-POW. She remarked that I had no outward sign to identify me as such and bid me to wait while she ran an errand. Returning with a foot long U.S. flag she pinned it to the back of my jacket saying, "Now you are an American again."

The Ruski's denied our request for a truck--one of thousands we gave them but it didn't matter as the Czech officer arranged for us a train ride early that morning.

My friend and I overslept so we missed the early train but caught one that evening. When the train reached its terminal we were faced with a Russian check-point. Seeing all the other passengers line up in twos behind me I tried to discourage them from following too closely fearing it would diminish my own chances from crossing but they assured me that the flag would get us through.

The Russian officer in charge asked for my identification. I replied that I was an American soldier and ex-POW. He asked for some proof, having none I turned my back to him displaying the U.S. flag. Without any hesitation he signaled the barrier to be lifted and turning to me he made a sweeping motion with his arm and said, "Comrade, you and your companions proceed." Imagine this Czech girl having the U.S. flag in her possession for which she might have been punished and a Russian officer who had enough respect for this symbol that he asked for no other proof of my identity and the contrast between some of our protesters who tramp upon it and burn it and our congress who refuses to pass a law making it a crime to do so. ■



# "Battle of the Bulge Veterans Memorial Highway"

## ROUTE 145 DEDICATED TO BULGE VETERANS – LEHIGH VALLEY CHAPTER, PA

*[The following excerpts are taken from The Morning Call newspaper. The article was written by Michael Duck.]*

Cold rain pelted 82-year-old Morris Metz as he stood beside Route 145 in Lehigh Township on Tuesday morning, shoulder to shoulder with dozens of his brothers-in-arms from the Battle of the Bulge.

Above their heads, a soaked canvas tarp was yanked back to reveal a new sign: "Battle of the Bulge Veterans Memorial Highway."



It was a moment Metz said he never could have imagined as a 19-year-old soldier with a bazooka on his shoulder, fighting for his life in the bitter cold and snow of Belgium against the last-ditch German offensive of World War II.

"We did our jobs," said Metz, of Forks Township, who's now president of the group Lehigh Valley Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. "At that point, we didn't realize the impact."

Politicians and road workers joined the veterans in a soggy field beside the highway to unveil and dedicate the signs. The ceremony also marked the anniversary of Metz's group, which has met regularly for 10 years at The Terrace Restaurant on Route 145 in Walnutport.

Signs marking the new memorial highway are in Walnutport, just north of The Terrace, and near the Treichlers Bridge at the southern edge of Lehigh Township.

"To me it was fitting.... [so] everyone could remember where this group began," said Bob Faro, of Upper Nazareth, an associate member of the group and the one who pushed for the highway dedication. "Every time I drive by it, it'll just be more poignant."

Faro, a Vietnam-era veteran, had two relatives in the Battle of the Bulge: his uncle Thomas Reda, of West New York, New Jersey, was taken as a prisoner of war at the start of the campaign, while his mother's cousin, Thomas O'Brien, of Middleborough, Massachusetts, was shot and killed by a sniper at the very end of the battle.

However, Faro said, "This is not about my family." His goal is to remind younger people about the battle and help honor its veterans. "These guys are disappearing fast, you know?"

More than a year ago, Faro took his idea of State Representatives Julie Harhart, R-Northampton, and Richard Grucela, D-Northampton. The pair co-sponsored a bill to rename the stretch of Route 145, which passed unanimously and was recently signed by the governor. ...

In 2002, the State Legislature also named Route 33 in Northampton County the Gen. Anthony C. McAuliffe 101st Airborne Memorial Highway. McAuliffe commanded the 101st Airborne Division in Bastogne, Belgium, during the Battle of the Bulge. ...

To date, members of the group have addressed more than 42,000 students at roughly two dozen schools across Lehigh, Northampton and Carbon counties, said Greenhaigh, who is also the group's educational coordinator.

Greenhaigh said she hopes the new, green highway signs will also stir more interest in the pivotal battle.



*Lehigh Valley Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge President Morris Metz, speaking at the dedication of the "Battle of the Bulge Veterans Memorial Highway," on May 20, 2008.*

## ATTENTION — ALL ARMOR UNITS

Secretary Will Cook of the 5<sup>th</sup> Armored Division has alerted us to changes at the Fort Knox Museum by furnishing an e-mail from Chris Golden representing the National Armor and Cavalry Museum Association. It states the Armor Center, school and museum are moving to Fort Benning, GA where a new Armor and Cavalry Museum is being built.

He states the armor memorials at Ft. Knox will have to be moved because the Patton Museum is being moved to another location on post and will no longer be an Army museum.

The message was not clear as to whether the armor memorials would have to be moved to another location at Ft. Knox or to Ft. Benning, GA.

Golden states the full story is on a temporary website <http://www.armorcavalrymuseum.org>. Golden's address is [chrisgolden@rcn.com](mailto:chrisgolden@rcn.com)

Submitted by Dee Paris

**CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL TO SEE IF  
YOUR DUES ARE DUE. THANKS.**



**RESERVATION FORM**  
**"REMEMBRANCE AND COMMEMORATION"**  
**OF THE 64th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE**  
**December 14, 15 and 16, 2008**  
**Metropolitan Washington, DC**

Return form and check by **December 1, 2008** to:  
**Battle of the Bulge Historical Foundation, Inc.**  
**PO Box 2516,**  
**Kensington MD 20895-0181**

Questions:  
**John D. Bowen, 301-384-6533**  
**E-Mail: johndbowen@earthlink.net**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Battle of Bulge Unit You Served With: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

RESERVATIONS:	<u>Number Attending</u>	<u>Cost/Person</u>	<u>Total</u>
Registration Fee: Provides for Badges, Programs, Hospitality, etc.	_____	\$10.00	\$ _____

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2008**

6:30 PM - 8:00 PM: DoubleTree Hotel Café Restaurant \_\_\_\_\_ on your own

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2008**

Chartered Bus, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM \_\_\_\_\_ \$35.00 \_\_\_\_\_

9:00 AM - 3:30 PM Visit Newseum & Union Station \_\_\_\_\_

BOB Veteran \_\_\_\_\_ Complimentary

Guests of Veteran up to four people: \_\_\_\_\_

Names: \_\_\_\_\_ Complimentary

Commemorative Banquet, DoubleTree Hotel Crystal City \_\_\_\_\_ \$60.00 \_\_\_\_\_

6:15 PM - 10:00 PM

Please make your Main Course selection(s):

☐ Medallions of beef tenderloin \_\_\_\_\_ (Name \_\_\_\_\_)

OR

☐ Chicken Piccata with lemon caper sauce \_\_\_\_\_ (Name \_\_\_\_\_)

☐ Diabetic Meal \_\_\_\_\_ (Name \_\_\_\_\_)

Plan ahead with your friends to be seated at the same table. Tables are Rounds of 8. Please indicate friends with whom you would like to sit: \_\_\_\_\_

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2008:**

9:00 AM Chartered bus to World War II Memorial \_\_\_\_\_ \$17.50 \_\_\_\_\_

10:00 AM Bus to Arlington Cemetery; \_\_\_\_\_

11:00 AM Ceremonies: Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers and VBOB Monuments **No. Attending:** \_\_\_\_\_

12:30 PM Bus Return to DoubleTree Crystal City Hotel \_\_\_\_\_

1:00 PM VBOB Luncheon & Installation of Officers \_\_\_\_\_

Active National VBOB Member # \_\_\_\_\_ + Guest \_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00\*ea. \_\_\_\_\_

Non-Active or Non-National VBOB Member \_\_\_\_\_ \$28.00 ea. \_\_\_\_\_

\*Total Cost of Luncheon is \$28.00 of which VBOB will fund \$18.00 for active VBOB National Member & one Guest.

VBOB Membership # as shown on your last page of the Bulge Bugle \_\_\_\_\_

**GRAND TOTAL** (Enclose check made out to BoBHF Commemoration): \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTES & REMINDERS:** Banquet Dress: Business suit/black tie (miniature medals encouraged) or military dress uniform  
 Room reservations must be made with the DoubleTree Crystal City directly, by December 1, 2008 (Telephone (1-800-Hiltons).  
 Return completed Reservation Form for events to BOB Historical Foundation by 1 December 2008, (Telephone 301-384-6533).

No cancellation refunds after December 8, 2007.

Please indicate in all places the number & names attending so that we can be advised of the proper number to plan. Thanks!

\*\*\*PLEASE BRING A PICTURE ID (Drivers License, Passport, Mil ID) for the Washington area\*\*\*

08/01/08



**THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION**  
*Invites You to Join Your Friends for the*  
**"EVENTS OF REMEMBRANCE AND COMMEMORATION"**  
**OF THE 64<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE**  
**December 14, 15 and 16, 2008**  
**Metropolitan Washington, DC**

The DoubleTree Hotel Crystal City, by Hilton, 300 Army-Navy Drive, in Arlington VA22202 has been selected again, with its panoramic view of our Nation's Capital, as the site for activities commemorating the 64<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, December 14 - 16, 2008. This hotel, just off Route 1 in Crystal City is a 7 minute drive from Reagan National Airport and a 2 City block walk to the Pentagon Metro Station and the Pentagon Mall. It provides easy access to Washington DC and underwent a major renovation in 2006 for great accommodations. We have managed to retain the reduced rate of \$99.00, single or double occupancy plus taxes, however food has gone up. Parking is Complimentary. This rate is available for any night(s) between December 13 and December 17. For room reservations please call the DoubleTree Reservations (1-800-Hiltons) or 703-416-4100 by **December 1, 2008**. Mention that you are attending the **BATTLE OF THE BULGE** events for the special rate.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2008**

- 2:00 PM – 6:00 PM Registration (Hospitality Suite, Van Buren), receive name badges, Banquet/bus tickets, and information. (If you are only attending the Banquet, you may pick up your tickets at the DoubleTree by 6:00 PM Dec 15<sup>th</sup>.) Plan ahead with your friends to be seated at the same table (rounds of 10 per table).
- 3:00 PM – 10:00 PM Hospitality Room/Exhibits, scrapbooks. John Bowen & Bob Phillips, Battle of the Bulge Historians will be the hosts. Supper will be from 6:30 – 8:00 PM. Those wishing to (payment is on your own) can eat in the hotel's Café Restaurant. A time to renew friendships & visit w/old friends.

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2008**

- 8:00 AM Registration open/Receive name badges, Parking Passes, Banquet/bus tickets, Van Buren (Hospitality).
- 9:00 AM Charter buses depart hotel.
- 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM We will be visiting the new NEWSEUM in Washington which opened this year. **The Newseum is pleased to honor Bulge Veterans, as their guests, and up to four family members complimentary.** This is an \$18-20 savings based on age. You may visit 15 theaters, including a 4-D immersive experience and feature films that highlight the world's greatest stories & moments and 14 major Galleries that blend five centuries of news history – including the people, places and times – with up-to-the-second technology. You may lunch there or proceed to Union Station for lunch on your own and shopping. We will pick-up at 3:30 PM from both locations. An incredible new Newseum!

**BANQUET AT THE DOUBLETREE CRYSTAL CITY**

- 6:00 PM Social Hour/Cash Bar. (Hospitality Room closed at 5:30 PM for Military to change clothes)
- 6:45 PM Seated for Dinner.
- 7:00 PM Color Guard/Members of the Fife and Drum Corps/Commemoration Ceremonies.
- 7:15 PM Dinner served.

**BANQUET ENTRÉE**

*The choice of entrée for the Banquet is:*

*Medallions of Beef Tenderloin*

**OR**

*Chicken Piccata with lemon caper sauce*

Program:

Greetings from Dignitaries and Speaker:

After Banquet

Hospitality Room open, Van Buren Suite, at DoubleTree Crystal City.

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2008**

- 9:00 AM Bus leaves from DoubleTree Crystal City Hotel to Arlington Cemetery
- 10:00 AM Wreath laying, World War II Memorial, 17<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Washington DC
- 11:00 AM Impressive ceremony and placing of wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns, Arlington Cemetery.
- 11:30 AM Ceremony of Remembrance, Battle of the Bulge Memorial, across from Amphitheater.
- 12:00 PM Ceremony of Remembrance, Battle of the Bulge Memorial, Porter Avenue, Arlington Cemetery
- 1:00 PM Buffet Luncheon, in beautiful Windows Over Washington Hosted by VBOB, at DoubleTree Hotel
- Consisting of hot soup, sandwich, beverage and cookies for dessert.
- Swearing-in of new National VBOB officers.
- Comments by National VBOB President & Farewell.

Notes: Free Airport shuttle provided by the DoubleTree Hotel every half hour, 3 miles from Reagan Washington National Airport. Free Shuttle from DoubleTree Hotel every hour on the half hour to Pentagon City Metro (Blue/Yellow Line) and Pentagon City Mall Skydome Lounge the area's only revolving rooftop lounge for a spectacular view of Washington at night. The Café Restaurant opens 6:30 AM to 11:00 PM



# Battle of the Bulge vets want people to remember

Aging warriors seek new blood to keep memory of their fight alive

By Jeb Phillips  
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

The Battle of the Bulge veterans meeting in Columbus this week know what they're up against.

The man who organized the national reunion is 86 years old. The president is 93. There were 8,000 members two years ago. There are 6,400 now. The woman who handles the membership roster normally doesn't get death notices — the national Battle of the Bulge Association newsletter just comes back undelivered.

The veterans realized that they have a choice. The group can die when they do. Plenty of World War II organizations have done that already.

Or they can try to recruit new members, people too young to have been in the battle but who care about the history.

So yesterday morning, Bill Ruth, the 86-year-old reunion chairman, stood in front of a bunch of students at Orange High School in Lewis Center and made his pitch:

"We want all you to be associate members!" he said, according to some who were laughing about the young audience afterward.

Ruth, who lives in Worthington and was a radio operator with the 3rd Armored Division,



Battle of the Bulge veteran Jules Desgain, 86, talks to Andy Fox of the WWII Historical Preservation Federation. The group of Bulge veterans, which is meeting in Columbus, is recruiting younger people to preserve their memories after they are gone.

ERIC ALBRECHT | DISPATCH

sion, said his pitch didn't go quite that way. But it amounted to the same thing.

"After they are all gone, they can perpetuate our memories," he said of the potential younger members.

About 80 Bulge veterans are in town for the reunion, which runs through Sunday at the

Ramada Plaza Hotel and Conference Center, 4900 Sinclair Rd. on the North Side. One veteran came from Arizona, but since so many have a difficult time traveling now, most attendees are from Ohio or nearby states.

They've done much of the basic veterans' reunion itiner-

ary, including a tour of Motts Military Museum, a trip to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, a banquet tonight. But they've also tried to make their first-ever push for media coverage, hoping to attract new members.

Ruth is at the head of that. Some don't share his optimism

that the group can continue on forever. They don't mind trying, though.

"Among our new officers are some associate members," said Demetri "Dee" Paris of Silver Spring, Md., the 93-year-old national president. "They are gung-ho."

Paris was a platoon leader in

the 14th Tank Battalion, 9th Armored Division, which was surrounded by the Germans at St. Vith, Belgium.

From Dec. 16, 1944, to Jan. 25, 1945, U.S. troops fought in bitter cold before turning back a last-ditch attempt by German forces to halt the Allied advance eastward. It was the bloodiest battle fought by U.S. forces in World War II; 19,000 Americans were killed.

Frank Walsh, 85, of Grove City, was a private in an 11th Armored Division reconnaissance company when he became the acting platoon sergeant after the real one was killed; then the lieutenant was killed and he became acting platoon leader. After the Battle of the Bulge, Walsh was commissioned an officer because of his leadership.

"I enjoy all of these combat stories," said Tom Tomastik, 50, of Galena, who became an associate member two years ago. "I want to know what the everyday guy did on the front line. I took four days off of work to do this."

The local Battle of the Bulge chapter had 16 members three years ago; now it has 57, about half of whom are associates. Nationally, about 15 percent of members are associates. That's up from a few years ago, members said.

Membership is \$15 per year. Give it a shot, Ruth suggests. "We need a younger generation. I'm worn out."

For more on the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, visit [www.battleofthebulge.org](http://www.battleofthebulge.org). [jeb.phillips@dispatch.com](mailto:jeb.phillips@dispatch.com)

## Golden Gate Chapter to hold Commemoration Ceremony

The Golden Gate Chapter of the VBOB will hold a ceremony at the Memorial Rock behind Ft. Miley VA Hospital in San Francisco, CA on Saturday, December 13, 2008. All VBOB members and family are welcome.

The Chapter holds this event every year and they are graced by the presence of the Honorary Consul General of Belgium, Mrs. Rita Bral and her husband, Edward and the Consul General of Luxembourg, Georges Faber and his wife, Barbara. The Consul Generals express their deep gratitude for the Veterans for liberating their countries.

During the ceremony, the members recount stories of where they were when the Bulge began. The ceremony is followed by a luncheon in a meeting room of the VA Hospital. The President of the Chapter is Doris Davis (2nd Generation). For more information, contact Doris (650) 654-0101.

## Graves Registration



Almost a full month after the massacre of American soldiers by Joachim Peiper's SS troopers near Malmédy on December 17, a U.S. Graves Registration team performs the grim task of locating and identifying the victims. The pall of snow had preserved the bodies until Graves Registration could do its work.



## COMMENTARY

# WWII reunions more like memorials

John Priestas, hunched over a photo of six dozen men standing tall at a reunion of their World War II Army unit, slowly shook his head as he recited a necrology of absent friends while a CD player at his back poured out *In the Mood*.

"Dead," Priestas pronounced, moving his finger from one head to another.

"Dead. Dead. Alive. He's got bone cancer. Dead. Alive. Dead. Dead. Might as well be dead. Dead. That's me. I'm alive. Dead."

Wilfred Krieger, a Cincinnati veteran who served with Priestas in Europe, marveled that the annual reunion, which once attracted 250 people, drew 13 this weekend. It was the first reunion in 55 years at which widows outnumbered veterans.



MIKE HARDEN



MIKE HARDEN | FOR THE DISPATCH

"Now, a case of beer lasts us three days," Krieger said.

This is how the Greatest Generation will make its exit: not with brass bands and strewn confetti, purple bombast and military flyovers, but in a pinched hotel conference room, tallying the casualties and listening to Glenn Miller.

Their attackers now are not from without but from within: the renegade embolus, the burst blood vessel that paints a scarlet Rorschach on the brain, and always the cancer. Always.

Priestas looked up from his dead-or-alive recitation long enough to say, "I considered these men my brothers, every one of them."

He was one of five brothers from Columbus who all went off to serve. Michael, the oldest, was killed as the battle for France reached St. Lo. John's superiors allowed him the time to carry a bouquet to a makeshift military cemetery where Michael slept beneath a rough wooden cross.

His body would be returned to Columbus in 1947 for burial in St. Joseph Cemetery.

Michael's parents received word that their son was dead

the same day they learned that two of his brothers, John and Paul, were being evacuated to a hospital in England with combat wounds.

Children unborn when Michael fell are now pensioners.

As the afternoon groaned on at the Hampton Inn on Rt. 256, Priestas and five others ceased looking up each time a newly arriving guest entered the adjacent lobby. Chances were good that it was not one of the last living members of the Army's 224th Quartermaster Salvage and Repair Company.

The talk drifted to the state of the nation. Lancaster's Jean Spung, widow of Gale, injected: "Anymore, we don't seem to have that feeling that says, 'That is my flag, and this is my country.'"

Iraq drew mixed reviews, Priestas lamenting the young men and women born to families of poverty who thought the National Guard would be the perfect ticket to an eventual college education.

"Those minds," he said, "all those tremendous minds now lost forever."

As he and Krieger awaited their old Army buddies, the talk turned to a lost comrade who had expired after showing symptoms of a cardiac episode during an earlier reunion's golf outing in Pennsylvania. For a moment, no one seemed clear where, on the journey back to the

John Priestas, left, and Wilfred Krieger are among the last living members of their World War II Army unit, the 224th Quartermaster Salvage and Repair Company. The unit's reunion drew only 13 people this weekend.

Reprinted from *The Columbus Dispatch* July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Buckeye State, the fellow had died, though the consensus ultimately settled on a roadside rest stop at the state line.

The background music for Priestas' attendance check had changed to *Under Paris Skies*.

"Dead," he said. "Dead. Dead. He's dead."

Retired columnist Mike Harden writes a Sunday Metro column. [mharden@dispatch.com](mailto:mharden@dispatch.com)



Submitted by  
"The Energizer"  
Bill Ruth  
3<sup>rd</sup> Armd. Div.

Reprinted from  
The Washington Post  
October 3, 2008

BEETLE BAILEY



MORT WALKER





## HONORED

We have been advised that **ROBERT (BOB) GILL, 17TH AIRBORNE DIVISION, 513TH BATTALION, HEADQUARTERS**, was honored at a half time ceremony during the Tahquitz High School opening football game.



A brief comment by Bob: It was Christmas, December 25th, 1944. We went into "the" battle with General Patton. The Germans were shelling us like crazy. We lost some men. About January 1st, we met the Germans and about ten or twelve of their tiger tanks! We lost yet more men. We started pushing the Germans back into Germany, encompassing 40 days of fighting.



*Plaque honoring the 17th Airborne Division*

Don't forget to encourage your family members and friends to join the Battle of the Bulge Association. We can only continue with your help.

If your unit association is considering disbanding, encourage them to join with us. This can relieve the responsibility of planning a reunion, maintaining membership records, preparation of a newsletter, etc. There is always a day at the reunion when you can take time to just be together.

So, if you are able, try to find a new member for VBOB. It will help insure that the Battle of the Bulge is not forgotten. Thank you.

## KEEPING AN EYE ON OUR FREEDOM

**Gene Gaulke**

**Company C**

**20th Armored Infantry Battalion  
10th Armored Division**

When Gene Gaulke set his sights on joining the U.S. Navy in 1944, he did not let a vision problem stand in his way.

Gaulke, who had practically no sight in his left eye, was not cleared for enlistment. But he did not give up. He did not want to be left out of the war. Nor did he want to carry the stigma of a 4-F classification for his lifetime. He wanted to fight for his country and to live to tell his children and grandchildren about it. So, he waited for his next opportunity, the draft.



He was drafted on September 26, 1944, and sent to Fort Snelling, Minnesota, for his physical. With a determination to serve in the military burning in his heart and the disappointment of the Des Moines trip lingering in his head, Gaulke stood in line for his turn at the eye chart. While he waited, he watched, not taking his eyes off the black letters and numbers on the white board. With his good right eye closed and his left eye open, he rattled off the letters in perfect sequence. He had memorized the chart and passed the test. He was later tested by an optometrist and it was determined he did not have sufficient sight in his left eye. He did not want to return home at 4-F. So, with his sights set on staying, he sold his superiors on a solution: he would aim his rifle with his good right eye.

He was assigned to the 10th Armored Division which was headed for Bastogne. At their first stop, Gaulke jumped into a foxhole and found three dead GI's. A PFC from New York calmed Gaulke's spirits and restored his morale by reminding him that death happens in all places, whether it be the heart of the battlefield or the safe haven on his hometown. And so, Gaulke traveled on.

Even with his limited vision, Gaulke saw much action in WWII. He, like so many others, set his sights on serving his country.

Because of the vision and dedication of "The Greatest Generation," we won the war and have our freedom today. ■



## 28<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL NATIONAL VBOB REUNION COLUMBUS, OH

"Hail Christopher", Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge (VBOB) members and friends arrived on Tuesday, Sep. 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008, in your namesake city of Columbus, Ohio, for the 28<sup>th</sup> Reunion of VBOB at the Ramada Plaza Hotel. The reunion was sponsored by the Litsinberger Chapter, Central Ohio, President Richard H. Wheeler and wife Katherine. Bill Ruth was the reunion chairman.

**Tuesday, Sep. 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008** Nancy and Bill Monson greeted all registered VBOB members and family attending the Reunion with a packet designating schedules, time, and places to visit. In the evening a "Welcome, Wine and Cheese Reception", compliments of the Ramada Plaza Hotel, was held in a ballroom of the hotel.

**Wednesday, Sep. 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008** attendees were bused to "Motts Military Museum" a privately owned museum, in the village of Groveport, Ohio. This museum is under the management of Warren E. Motts, Founder/Director. Prior to entering the museum, there was a brief wreath laying ceremony. The wreath consisted of golden autumn leaves with ornaments of fruit and vegetables from the current harvest. This wreath was placed at the foot of the flagpole in honor of our fallen comrades who paid the supreme sacrifice. Prior to walking around the building, my roommate Jim Barlow, secured a wheel chair for me, as I cannot walk any lengthy distance. My roommate was my man "Friday". He graciously pushed me around the building and the outside grounds. The museum contains many items of historical interest and memorable from the American Revolution to present day Armed Forces. On the grounds are military vehicles, which are well maintained for display. Also a replica of the boyhood home of Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker (born in Columbus, Ohio), a WW I Ace, is on the grounds, open to visitors.

From Motts Museum we had a bus tour of the City of Columbus. We passed through the historic German Village, the Brewing District, and not to miss, the Italian District. The University of Ohio has a huge campus in Columbus, second largest campus in the U.S., covering many miles in and around the City of Columbus. Wherever you look, there is some kind of school, research labs or other buildings related to Ohio U. These school buildings offered teaching in liberal arts; business administration; education; physics; pharmacy; nursing; medical technology, just to name a few of the curriculums available to students and graduate students.

**Thursday, Sep. 11<sup>th</sup>, 2008** throughout the City of Columbus, the Stars and Stripes were flown at half-mast in respect to honor the thousands killed and injured in the disastrous terrorist attack on Sep. 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001.

Attendees were bused to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. Members were divided into groups, each group had a Tour guide. Groups were led by the Tour guide to the various sections of the huge airplane hangers. At this point, my roommate Jim Barlow got this writer a motorized wheel chair. I could never have walked to see and observe the various huge airplanes of the U.S. collection. WP AFB loans these motorized vehicles to visitors unable to walk any lengthy distance. This was a life saver for me, as my legs very weak. Once I got on the motorized wheel chair, I was off. I left my roommate behind. I was able to maneuver around the huge displays of American and foreign aircraft in the three huge hangers. I finally caught up with my roommate in the lobby of the entrance just prior to our departure from WP-AFB.

**Friday, Sep. 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008** VBOBers and friends were furnished school buses for the ride to Orange Middle School. As each veteran entered the school theater a "Buddy", eighth grade student, was assigned to stay with the veteran during the program and lunch. VBOB President "Dee" Paris opened the Program with a welcoming remark to thank the students for their invitation to visit their school and attend and participate in their Program. Presentation of "Colors" was made by the Color Guard of Delaware Hayes ROTC. Master-of-Ceremonies was Mrs. Nancy Polisenio, Eight Grade teacher. Guest speaker was Colonel Tim Garrell, Ohio National Guard. Mrs. Nancy Polisenio directed Eighth Grade "Buddies" to make presentation of gifts to veterans. The gift was a hardback pamphlet, prepared by the eighth grade students, that included writings of essays, prose, verses, and poetry directed to the veterans.

While certain VBOB members were assigned to classrooms to discuss their experiences in the "Battle of the Bulge" and answer questions submitted by the students, the remaining veterans stayed in the theater to tell of their experiences and answer questions put forth by the student body. Matt Uher and Roland Lane conducted the sessions in the theater.

Veterans and their "Buddies" enjoyed a delicious lunch bag sandwich, cookies, and a bottle of water, in the lunchroom of the school. After lunch veterans and "Buddies" parted ways.

In the evening, veterans and friends enjoyed a delicious "Octoberfest" buffet dinner in a ballroom of the Ramada Hotel. Music was furnished by a typical Bavarian group dressed in a woodman's shirt and leather shorts playing German folk songs. During the dinner Ralph Bozorth showed a video presentation of photos of veterans in their service uniforms and as they are today.

(Continued)



***"Many thanks to the Reunion Committee led by Bill Ruth,  
3<sup>rd</sup> AD, who worked to make this reunion a success."***

**Saturday, Sep. 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008** General membership meeting was held in a ballroom of the hotel. President "Dee" Paris opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Nominating Committee Chairman John Bowen announced the slate for 2009-10 year. Nominees were published in the August 2008 issue of "The Bulge Bugle". Nominees were approved in toto by the membership. President Paris announced that the 2009 Reunion would be in Tucson, Arizona, in October 2009. George W. McGee, President of Southern Arizona Chapter, made a video presentation of the Tucson area and list of places and events in the proposed program. President Paris adjourned the meeting.

The VBOB 2008 Annual Banquet was held in a ballroom of the Ramada Plaza Hotel. President "Dee" Paris, 9<sup>th</sup> AD, was Master-of-Ceremonies for the banquet. At President Paris command the Delaware Hayes High School ROTC presented the "Colors". The national anthems of Belgium and Luxembourg were played followed by the U.S. National Anthem. At President Paris command the "Colors" were retired. Mrs. Nancy Poliseno, Teacher, Eighth Grade, Orange Middle School, led members in the Pledge of Allegiance. Invocation was by John Bowen, VBOB Recording Secretary. Kate Nolan, ANC, 53rd Field Hosp, made a toast to those who paid the supreme sacrifice; Ethel Zimmer, ANC, Damall Gen. Hosp, made a toast to the families of those who served; and Bill Ruth, 3<sup>rd</sup> AD, made a toast to the people of Belgium and Luxembourg. Dinner was served. President Paris

introduced guest speaker, RADM Willy Temmerman, Defense Attache, Embassy of Belgium. RADM Temmerman expressed the Belgium Government thanks to the American veterans who freed their country from the tyranny of German occupation. Entertainment was furnished by the "Rhymetime Barbershop Quartet". President Paris adjourned the banquet with the singing of "America". There was a closing video presentation by Ralph Bozorth of the lives of veterans endured during the BOB

**Sunday, Sep. 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008** Members and friends enjoyed a pre-paid breakfast in a ballroom of the hotel. Now we take our leave for another year, farewell and a safe journey home to our new friends and old.

God willing, see you at the 2009 National VBOB Reunion at Tucson, AZ, October 2009.

Many thanks to the Reunion Committee led by Bill Ruth, 3<sup>rd</sup> AD, and the committee members who worked to make this Reunion a success. President Paris presented to Bill Ruth a large "Energy" Bunny for his endless work to insure a successful Reunion. Also thanks to Ralph Bozorth for the video presentations; and let's not forget Dave Shaw, steward of the Hospitality Room.

"AMITIE POUR TOUJOURS" (friendship forever)

**Marty Sheeron 53<sup>rd</sup> Field Hosp, 9/22/08**



Getting ready for the opening ceremony  
at Orange Middle School



VBOB members chat after delicious box lunch.



Music furnished by typical Bavarian  
Group Playing German Folk Songs



Marty Sheeron and Nancy Poliseno, Eighth Grade Teacher,  
Master of Ceremonies for Program at Orange Middle School.



## Speech by Mitchell Kaidy Oct. 15, 2008 before Army Military History Institute Carlisle, PA

Let me start with the wonderful news. We won the world's most vital war--World War II in Europe. That was in May, 1945.

Now the bad news. My unit alone, the 87<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, suffered more casualties than two entire wars in Iraq—the current war, and Desert Storm.

Our 87<sup>th</sup> Division statistician, Paul Nessman, only recently finished searching official and unofficial sources and statistics, and he assembled casualty figures for our six-month tour of duty in the Third Army under Gen George Patton.

Starting with a complement of 10,000 infantrymen plus attached units such as artillery, engineers and quartermaster, in five months we lost 5,300 killed and wounded (mostly infantry), 1,300 killed, and were forced to draw 10,000 replacement troops, some inadequately trained.

Predictably, most the casualties were lost during the Battle of the Bulge, which went on longer than most histories are aware of. Starting and ending in Germany, the Bulge was undoubtedly the longest-lasting and most punishing encounter in American history.

Based on my unit's experience of playing down official casualties, there's reason to believe that the 81,000 overall Bulge casualties officially reported is low by at least 20,000.

I doubt that many soldiers died directly from the incessant cold and snow, but tens of thousands were evacuated with frozen feet and hands, pneumonia and other cold-related ailments.

I didn't know I'd be a journalist, but I kept a sketchy log which foreshadowed my postwar career. Keeping a diary was sternly prohibited at the time—and for good reasons. If you were captured, the log could prove valuable to the enemy.

But I was one of the very few who defied authorities, keeping a sketchy, handwritten account which is as personal as it is military, although I do mention places, movements and conditions of the time. Only sometimes do I mention close calls; there were a lot more.

One of George Patton's most perceptive military moves at was to switch my outfit, the 87<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, 350 miles on back roads from Germany's Saar Valley to France, then to the Bulge in late December, 1944. To repel the enemy around Bastogne, he also threw in the untested 11<sup>th</sup> Armored Division, and later the equally green 17<sup>th</sup> Airborne. The 87<sup>th</sup> Division had received its baptism around the Metz, France, fortresses, and in the Saar Valley on the German/French border.

Thrown into the early Bulge engagements with the 87<sup>th</sup>, the 11<sup>th</sup> Armored and 17<sup>th</sup> Airborne suffered heavily. So much did the 11<sup>th</sup> Armored commander disappoint both Gen. Patton and Gen. Middleton, the V111th Corps commander, that they were forced to relieve him.

At this time when Bastogne was virtually surrounded, the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne and 4<sup>th</sup> Armored Division draw most of the publicity for stopping the Nazi tanks and troops; but I rely on Maj. Gen. Troy Middleton, the V111th Corps commander, who credited the 87<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> Armored and 17<sup>th</sup> Airborne as the main elements. Patton wrote his wife that the 101<sup>st</sup> quote "did

well, but received too much credit." They still receive too much credit. The Bulge lasted a month after the dramatic reply of "Nuts" to the Nazis' showmanship in demanding surrender.

Although Gen. McAuliffe's one word reply to the German demand has caught history's fancy, it was the Corps commander, Middleton who decided to hold Bastogne, a decision approved by both Patton, a major general, and Omar Bradley, a lieutenant general.

Middleton, widely acclaimed in two wars, also credited the 110<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the 28<sup>th</sup> Division with valiant opposition, observing that if they had not put up a stalwart defense, quote "The Germans would have been in Bastogne the first night."

You're all too well informed not to know that the Bulge was Germany's last-ditch effort to capture a supply port on the English channel and at the same time divide the Allies. But in his 1974 biography, Gen. Middleton flatly stated that even if the Germans had succeeded in reaching Antwerp, there were too many Allied troops for them to overcome it and block supplies.

Even to this day, many Americans and many World War II troops don't recognize that—as planned by the Germans, the Battle of the Bulge was to be a ground and paratroop operation. That the plan disintegrated—almost totally because of the weather and poor coordination, it was only one of the critical failures of the Germans. Planning to drop several hundred paratroops, they managed less than a hundred—and they were dispersed and captured.

Indirectly, the fast-moving German timetable played a role in the Malmedy massacre. Adolph Hitler had dispatched one of his combat-tested leaders, Col. Joachim Peiper, to lead a fast-moving tank, car and truck task force to meet the paratroops. Several histories—mostly published in Europe—detail how Peiper developed a timetable to join forces with the airborne commander and link up south of Bastogne.

Believing that Van der Heydte's paratroopers would be on time, Peiper was in a hurry when he accidentally ran into the American troops near Malmedy. He then faced a choice—keep the timetable or get rid of 100 American soldiers. He chose the timetable to keep his pledge to his Fuehrer. For this reason (his timetable) Peiper's murderous rampage continued in another Belgian village. A few days later, he mowed down scores of Belgian civilians as mercilessly as he had the Americans, and threw their bodies on a street near a church which still sanctifies them. I saw their pictures in the church.

Nearly all authorities, Americans and Germans, agree that the Battle of the Bulge was unwinnable for Hitler. Being squeezed on the East by the monstrous Russian Army, he could not, and should not, have taken on the Americans as well. By doing so, he sacrificed hundreds of thousands of his countrymen and shortened the war.

In at least three ways, we American soldiers were unprepared and disadvantaged by our commanders during the horrific battle. (Not Patton or Middleton, but Gen. Lee of the Supply Services as well as SHAEF.) We entered combat wearing canvass leggings and dark clothing which contrasted

(Continued)



## Carlisle Speech (continued)

against the snow. Two, we didn't have waterproof shoes; three we didn't have very very vital white cloths to veil us (the Germans did). And most significant, the Germans had superior weapons.

Forget the Arsenal of Democracy. Both our light and heavy machineguns were heat-prone World War 1 weapons; while the Germans employed the hand-held burp gun-- a reliable, rapid-firing weapon. And what American tank featuring a 57 or 37 mm. gun would take on an 88mm.-equipped German tank that was crawling with armor?

Our late-arriving bazookas (on which we relied against the heavily armored Nazi tanks), as well as our 57-mm antitank guns, which proved to be tall and unwieldy, made infantry-tank battle paralyzing in the extreme.

I have no doubt in the world that we won because of the superior ability and sacrifice of our American soldier--there's no other way to win a war. We also won--and suffered fewer casualties--because of our Allies, the Russians. If the Russians weren't fighting and squeezing from the East, we'd still be fighting World War 11.

I've been asked to say a few words about the concentration camp at Ohrdruf, Germany, near Buchenwald. There is a dramatic description plus many photos in our history book, written a few weeks before the end of the war, about Ohrdruf. There is a dramatic account of a firefight of 87<sup>th</sup> Division infantrymen entering Ohrdruf. I accept this account totally and without exception.

Members of my company, battalion and regiment went to both camps. I had other duties. However, I heard about the firefight and I believe that the dozen photos taken in Ohrdruf and Buchenwald support our historical account--absolutely. I'll take your questions. Thank you, and God bless our troops wherever they are.

*(Trained as a heavy machinegunner, Mitchell Kaidy served in combat throughout the 87<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division tour in Europe.*

## BOOK AVAILABLE-- "ODOR OF WAR"

This book was written by Sergeant Andy Giambroni, 50th Armored Infantry Battalion, 6th Armored Division.

It deals with how the infantry soldiers lived, prayed and tried to keep warm in the freezing cold weather.

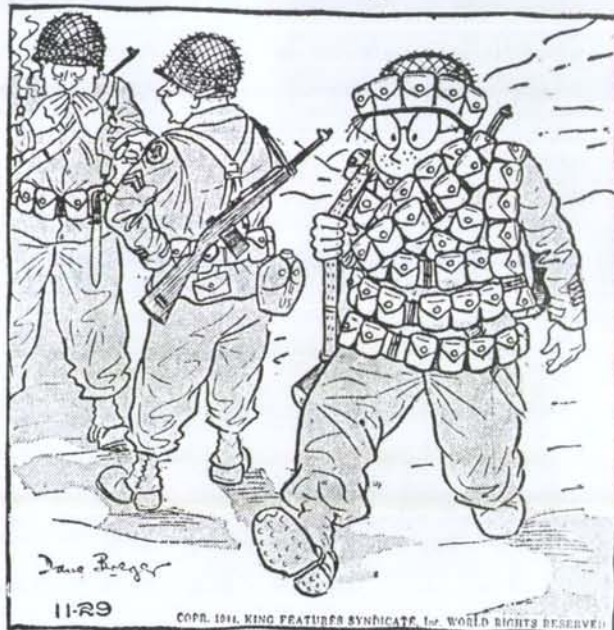
Andy relates that his company was well over 100% casualty and consisted mostly of soldiers 18 to 22 years of age. He states that "we did not whip the Germans, we just out-last-ed them."

This book tells in spades just how ugly war gets.

To order send personal or cashier's check (only) to: Odor of War, PO Box 459, Red Bluff, California 96080. Cost: \$21.45 in California (state tax included)--all other states \$20.00--Shipping and handling included. ■

**CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL  
ARE YOUR DUES DUE?  
DUES DATE APPEARS  
ABOVE YOUR LAST NAME**

## Private Breger



"D'ja ever see a guy so scared of runnin' outa ammunition?"



Reprinted from The 75<sup>th</sup> Div. Assn. Newsletter  
Tom Leamon - Artist

## NO COMPRIS "NUTS" SAY PARIS PAPERS

The French press was full of praise for the American stand at Bastogne but it was a little baffled by the word "Nuts" with which Brig. Gen. Anthony C. McAuliffe rejected the Germans demand for surrender.

"Vous n'etes que de vieilles noix," was the way Paris papers rendered it: "You are nothing but old nuts."



## More on Mauldin...

Bill Mauldin was born in New Mexico in 1921. While in his early teens Mauldin decided he wanted to become a professional cartoonist and after school attended the Academy of Fine Art in Chicago.

He joined the United States Army in 1940 and began producing cartoons for the 45<sup>th</sup> Division News. In 1943 he took part in the invasions of Sicily and Italy. the following year he became a full-time cartoonist for the *Stars and Stripes*. His cartoons often featured two infantrymen called Willie and Joe.

After Ernie Pyle, America's most popular journalist in the Second World War, wrote an article about the work of Mauldin, he was picked up by United Feature Syndicate in 1944 and his cartoons began appearing in newspapers all over the United States. He later recalled that: "I drew pictures for and about the soldiers because I knew what their life was like and understood their gripes. I wanted to make something out of the humorous situations which come up even when you don't think life could be any more miserable."



"Just give me the aspirin, I already got a Purple Heart"



*Crowded into a makeshift chapel, men of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne sing Christmas carols at midnight. the service came to an abrupt end when Luftwaffe bombs exploded in the street outside*

"But when all is said and done I shall always feel that Rundstedt was really beaten by the good fighting qualities of the American soldier...He is a brave fighting man, steady under fire, and with that tenacity in battle which stamps the first class soldier...I salute the brave fighting men of America..."

Field-Marshal Bernard L. Montgomery  
at a press conference on January 7, 1945,  
as recorded in "Memoirs of Field-Marshal Montgomery".



## Fated to be Friends

*[The following article written by Steven Hendrix, appeared in The Washington Post and was reprinted in the newsletter of the 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment.]*

George Serkedakis and Ken Myers may have been in their last parade. They rode together on Memorial Day in a parade in the District (of Columbia), a couple of elderly vets of the Battle of the Bulge in a ceremonial jeep.... Myers almost 87 and Serkedakis 93, are finding it harder to muster energy....

"I was really scared he was going to fall out of the jeep," says Serkedakis' wife, Fay, 70, on recalling her husband's last public excursion.

It had been more than 30 years since they rediscovered one another, but they still strive on rehashing the remarkable fate that brought them together twice.

Once on a blood & snow covered battlefield in Belgium, where one saved the life of the other, saved it against the direct orders of an army doctor who had already consigned the wounded soldier to a Belgian grave. And again, three decades later, in a traffic jam in downtown Washington.

In December 1944, Cpl. George Serkedakis was only a few weeks into Europe, riding shotgun in an infantry truck, he and the 99th were moving fast across France and Holland through deep snow and killing cold. It was six months after D-Day, and the Allies had been steadily pushing Hitler back toward the Fatherland. The Germans turned to make one last ferocious stand in Belgium.

Serkedakis didn't have a gun but he had a bazooka.... "We came into the village and the Germans were coming in with six tanks." He got off a round that exploded on one panzer--then nothing. A blissful void that has spared him the lifelong memory of what it's like to have the top of your skull shot away. With a colossal effort, he raised his head from the snow. Two figures moved through the weak gray of the winter morning. Finally one of them turned his way and he let his face fall, back into the cold. He remembers the motion of a litter and an argument and "I told you to leave him. He's dead." He moved his head. "Leave him! That's an order." Then a truck, a rough ride, more cold, more nothing. It was weeks later when he finally awoke in a British hospital. He tried to stand and ended up with both legs jammed into a single pajama leg. The bandage around his head covered a hole the size of a pear. "It took me a long time to heal. I was dizzy all the time and couldn't walk without crutches for 4 years--I'm still not completely healed." He returned home, he was rated as disabled by the army, had two sons and was happy. He still did not know whom to thank for saving his life.

One day in 1970(?) he was driving a cab near 18th and "I" Streets.. He heard a voice.... "Hey, buddy. Hey, buddy." He looked at a burly guy in a pickup. "Does the name Ken Myers mean anything to you?" It didn't. "How about the 99th Infantry? Battle of the Bulge?" They stood on the curb and talked for 4 hours. Serkedakis had found the guy to thank. They had been living less than five miles apart.

Ken Myers came home on a hospital ship. His war ended when a mortar round blew him off a motorcycle shattering his right leg. More than 60 years later, he still has pain in his feet. He outlived two wives and stays alone in the house he bought in

the 1960's. "They told us there were two soldiers out there--one dead, one alive," he said of his first morning in the Belgian village surrounded by Germans. He was a corpsman in a medical unit. "We found the dead guy. Half of his head had been shot away. We were working on the other one when darned if the dead guy didn't raise his head and look at us."

They carried him to an aid station where they were told by an officer to take him outside and go back for the living soldier. They took the body away but not to the morgue. They carried him to an abandoned kitchen and laid him on the table. It was 40 degrees below outside and not much warmer in the drafty room. "The cold kept him from bleeding to death--that's what I think," Myers said.

No one is sure how long Serkedakis stayed hidden. Myers remembers it being more than a week, but in the pitch of battle, he can't be sure.. He found the dog tags and dubbed his patient Serki. He let sugar cubes dissolve on Serki's lips.

The rough ride that Serkedakis remembers was in Myer's truck, loaded with 27 wounded men. He drove at night by the light of artillery fire and handed Serki over to a team of medics at the field hospital.

Myers went in for his first shower in days. He stopped by Serkedakis' bed on the way out and was surprised to find him conscious, sort of. "I said, 'How ha feeling, Serki?' and he said, 'I fell out of bed and I got a headache.'"

"I never knew what happened to him after that," he said. Never, that is, until a few life times later, when he looked across a lane of DC traffic and saw his patient's face framed by a taxi window.

Now they are buddies. Dinners together, parades and lots of long repetitive talk about the same series of events. They don't care if they've been through it a thousand times before. ■

## Checkerboard Charlie by Robbie



"Imagine having to put up with civilization again"

To a surprising extent the war-lords in shining armour, the apostles of martial virtues, tend not to die fighting when the time comes. History is full of ignominious getaways by the great and famous.

GEORGE ORWELL



## RECALLING THE BULGE

*[The following story by Katherine Mullen appeared in The Gazette Newspaper in November 2007. It is the story of LAWRENCE DALLAS, 99TH INFANTRY DIVISION, 395TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, 3RD BATTALION, HEADQUARTERS.]*

On the morning of December 16, 1944, bomb blasts destroyed the front of the house where Lawrence Dallas had been asleep for barely more than an hour. The Battle of the Bulge, one of the bloodiest battles for American forces in World War II, had begun.

Dallas, then a 21-year-old soldier from Brunswick (Maryland), had just completed a two-hour shift in the foxhole outside the house in Hofen, Germany.

He was tucked away in the house that served as his troop's communication headquarters when German shells began to rain down on the wintry landscape of the Ardennes Forest at 5:30 a.m.

"It was a terrific shelling," Dallas, now 84 years old, recalled from his home in Rosemont last week, where he lives with his wife of 56 years, Caroline. They have lived in the same home since 1958.

Dallas shared his war stories with a Brunswick Middle School student, via the Frederick County Veterans History Project, and now a description of Dallas' service can be found in the national Veterans History Project database in the Library of Congress.



*Lawrence Dallas tells the stories of how he earned a Bronze Star and a Purple heart during the Battle of the Bulge in WWII.*

The Veterans History Project is a national effort to collect and preserve the memories of veterans from WWI to the present, through video and audio recordings.

So far, Howard Metz, director of the Frederick County Veterans History Project, said his team of volunteers has interviewed more than 125 World War II veterans in Frederick County.

A railroad brakeman by trade, Dallas' job in the U.S. Army was to repair and lay communication and telephone wires between battalion and rifle headquarter companies. Dallas said this often put him in danger and under enemy fire.

"You never knew when they were going to shell you," he said.

Dallas' journey to the front lines of World War II began when he was drafted in February 1943 at the age of 19.

Born and raised in Brunswick, Dallas had dropped his family during The Great Depression and worked on the Brunswick railroad, as his father had. His first job was cleaning railroad cars at Union Station in Washington, DC.

In March 1943, Dallas reported to Fort Meade for basic training and spent the next six months in Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas for additional preparation.

It was at Camp Maxey in Paris, Texas, that Dallas received a letter from home--his childhood friend who had lived down the street, was killed in battle. The news "worked on me a bit," Dallas remembered.

On September 29, 1944, Dallas sailed to England where he spent three weeks before crossing the English to LeHavre in France, then Belgium and Germany. Dallas and the 99th Infantry Division were stationed in the area between Monschau and Hofen during the Battle of the Bulge.

One day during the conflict, Dallas said he volunteered to take another soldier's place laying wires to a new outpost. The soldier he replaced was a married man from Baltimore with three children.

Dallas, a bachelor at the time, said he was caught in the middle of German crossfire during the mission. His sacrifice and bravery that day earned him a Bronze Star. By the end of his three year tour of duty, Dallas would also earn the Purple Heart and the Distinguished Unit Badge for defending the road out of Monschau.

For three sleepless nights Dallas narrowly escaped injury and death as he and the soldiers of the 99th Division pushed the Germans into retreat. "We chased Germans all the way to Austria," Dallas said.

Nearly 19,000 U.S. soldiers died by the time the Battle of the Bulge was over in January 1945.

After the war ended, Dallas spent the rest of his service in Germany until he set sail on a 19-day journey from Marseilles, France, to New York. Bad weather and rough seas made everyone in his bunk seasick, he said, except him.

Dallas was honorably discharged on January 1, 1945, and said he returned home to Brunswick where he got his job back on the railroad after some difficulty.

Metz said Dallas tells his story with humility, which is common among WWII veterans.

Metz pointed to Dallas' location at Elsenborn Ridge at the Battle of the Bulge's northern front, as an example of his proximity to war. Allied troops stopped the Germans advance at Elsenborn Ridge, Metz said.

"His story, in a way, is very humble," Metz said. "He was in a tremendous amount of activity on the first day...yet he played it down." ■





Photo courtesy of George Chambers, Calhoun

## French women who collaborated shamed in public

Stripped tarred and feathered, their heads shaved, French women in Carantan, France who collaborated with the Germans or had German boyfriends are paraded in the streets and forced to give the Nazi salute in June 1944.

*All You City Slickers —*

**Make Plans Now To  
CATCH THE STAGECOACH!**

**VBOB 2009 REUNION**

**Tucson**  
ARIZONA

**Oct. 6, 09-----Oct. 11, 09**



Marshall George McGee and his Posse  
Southern Arizona Chapter



# VBOB QUARTERMASTER ORDER FORM

November 2008

Please ship the following items to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (first) \_\_\_\_\_ (last) \_\_\_\_\_ (phone #-will call only if there is a problem)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ (no.) \_\_\_\_\_ (street) \_\_\_\_\_ (city) \_\_\_\_\_ (state) \_\_\_\_\_ (zip)

Item Description	Price Each	Quantity	Total Price
VBOB Logo Patch - 3"	\$ 4.50		\$
VBOB Logo Patch - 4"	\$ 5.50		\$
VBOB Logo Decal - 4"	\$ 1.25		\$
VBOB Windshield Logo - 4"	\$ 1.25		\$
VBOB Logo Stickers - 1 1/2" (in quantities of 10)	10 for \$1.25		\$
Baseball Cap w/3" VBOB Logo Patch - Navy only	\$ 10.00		\$
Windbreaker w/4" VBOB Logo Patch - Navy only Please circle size (they run a little snug): S M L XL XXL XXXL (XXL and XXXL - see prices)	\$ 25.00 (S, M, L and XL) \$ 26.00 for XXL \$ 27.00 for XXXL		\$
VBOB Logo Lapel Pin - 1/2"	\$ 5.00		\$
Miniature VBOB Logo Medal w/Ribbon (pin on type)	\$ 8.50		\$
VBOB Logo Belt Buckle - Silver tone or Gold tone (Please circle choice)	\$ 16.00		\$
VBOB Logo Bolo Tie - Silver tone or Gold tone (Please circle choice)	\$ 16.00		\$
VBOB License Plate Frame w/Logos - White plastic w/Black printing	\$ 5.00		\$
VBOB 100 Sheet Notepad w/Logo - "This Note Is From... A Veteran of the Battle of the Bulge" - White paper with Blue printing	\$ 4.00		\$
BACK IN STOCK Large VBOB Logo Neck Medallion w/ribbon Ideal for insertion in medal shadow box	\$ 25.00		\$
VBOB Tote Bag--SOLD OUT			\$

Only Cash, Check, or Money Order Accepted

Make checks payable to: "VBOB" - and mail orders to VBOB-QM, PO Box 101418, Arlington, VA 22210-4418

**DO NOT INCLUDE ANY OTHER MONIES WITH QM PAYMENT**

Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery

Shipping and Handling:

\$0.00 to \$5.00 - \$ 2.00

\$5.01 to \$10.00 - \$ 3.00

\$10.01 and over - \$ 4.00

Please add \$1.00 to for all items shipped outside the USA.

Cost of Items: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

S&H: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Office Use Only - Do Not Write Below This Line**

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Mailed: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment: Cash Check MO

Check No.: \_\_\_\_\_



# THIS WAS THE YEAR...

## 1945

**U.S. PRESIDENT:** Harry Truman takes office after Franklin Roosevelt dies unexpectedly on April 12<sup>th</sup> at age 63.

**U.S. VICE PRESIDENT:** There was no Vice President from 1945-1949.

**HEADLINES:** Horrified Soviet Troops Liberate Prisoners at Auschwitz  
6 Million People Die in German Concentration Camps  
**Battle of the Bulge Ends**  
World War II Ends with Germany's Unconditional Surrender  
Hitler Commits Suicide in Underground Berlin Bunker  
Mussolini Shot, Hung Upside Down  
Iwo Jima Falls to U.S. Marines  
General George Patton Survives War, Dies from Car Accident

**PULITZER PRIZE WINNER:** *A Bell for Adano* by John Hersey

**NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNER:** Cordell Hull (American Secretary of State instrumental in establishing the United Nations)

**COST OF LIVING:**

•New House - \$4,625	•Average Income - \$2,390 per year
•New Car - \$1,025	•Average Rent - \$60 per month
•Gasoline - 15¢ per gallon	•Tuition to Harvard - \$420 per year
•Movie Ticket - 50¢	•U.S. Postage Stamp - 3¢

**COST OF FOOD:**

•Granulated Sugar - 75¢ per 10 pounds	•Vitamin D Milk - 62¢ per gallon
•Ground Coffee - 50¢ per pound	•Bacon - 45¢ per pound
•Eggs - 22¢ per dozen	•Ground Hamburger - 35¢ per pound
•Fresh Bread - 9¢ per loaf	

**MUSIC:** *Accentuate the Positive* (Johnny Mercer), *Candy* (Johnny Mercer & Jo Stafford), *Chickery Chick* (Sammy Kaye), *Dream* (Pied Pipers), *It's Been a Long, Long Time* (Harry James), *Rum and Coca-Cola* (Andrews Sisters), *Sentimental Journey* (Les Brown), *There, I've Said It Again* (Vaughn Monroe), *Till the End of Time* (Perry Como), *White Christmas* (Bing Crosby)

**MOVIES:** *And Then There Were None* (Barry Fitzgerald, Walter Huston), *The Bells of St. Mary's* (Bing Crosby, Ingrid Bergman), *The Lost Weekend* (Ray Milland, Jane Wyman), *Mildred Pierce* (Joan Crawford, Eve Arden), *Spellbound* (Ingrid Bergman, Gregory Peck), *State Fair* (Jeanne Crain, Dana Andrews), *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* (Dorothy McGuire, Joan Blondell)

**SPORTS:**

- Champions include the Detroit Tigers (World Series Baseball), Cleveland Browns (Pro Football), Toronto Maple Leafs (Stanley Cup Hockey), and Army (College Football).
- National Football League requires players to wear long stockings.
- Athletes of the Year are Byron Nelson (golf) and Babe Didrikson Zaharias (golf).



# VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE CERTIFICATE

## Have you ordered Yours?

Over 6,500 certificates have been purchased by Battle of the Bulge Veterans. If you haven't received yours then you might want to consider ordering one to give to your grandchildren. They are generally most appreciative of your service now. They make excellent gifts for that buddy that you served with in the Bulge. The Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge Assn. is proud to offer this full color 11" by 17" certificate, which may be ordered by any veteran who received credit for the Ardennes Campaign. It attests that you participated in, endured and survived the greatest land battle ever fought by the US Army.

You do not have to be a member of the VBOB Assn in order to order one but you must have received the Ardennes credit. This beautiful certificate is produced on parchment-like stock and is outlined by the full color WWII insignias of the major units that fought in the Battle of the Bulge starting with the 12<sup>th</sup> Army Group followed numerically with Armies, Corps and Divisions and the two Army Air Forces. We wished that each unit insignia could have been shown but with approximately 2000 units that participated in the Bulge it was impossible. However any unit, which served in the Bulge, would have been attached to or reported through one of the unit insignia depicted. You may want to add one of your original patches to the certificate, when you receive it. Please allow approximately 3-4 weeks for delivery, they are normally printed at the end of the month. The certificate will be shipped rolled in a protective mailing tube. Please be sure to place your **name, service number and unit, as you would like it to appear on the certificate**. The unit name should as full as possible as you want someone reading it to understand what unit you were in. We will abbreviate it as necessary. It is important that you type or print this information. The unit must be one of the 2000 units authorized for the Ardennes Campaign credit in the Official General Order No. 114 for Units Entitled to the ARDENNES Battle Credit and will be the basis for sale of this certificate. **The cost of the certificate is \$15.00 postpaid.**

**We no longer have frames available but if you have an A. C. Moore Craft Store near you they sell a 16 X 20 Inch Floating Glass Frame which these certificates fits into nicely and are quite attractive. They also sell an 11 X 17 Inch frame with a slim plastic black border which can also be used. The 16 X 20 Inch frame normally sells for \$20.00 but is sometimes on sale for \$15.00.**

---

### VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE CERTIFICATE ORDER BLANK

I request an 11" x 17" Certificate and certify that I received credit for the Ardennes Campaign. I have enclosed a check for \$15.00 for the Certificate. Please include the following information that I would like on the certificate:

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ Serial Number \_\_\_\_\_

Rank : \_\_\_\_\_ Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: usually Company, Battalion and/or Regiment, & Division

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that I have received the Ardennes Credit

#### MAILING INFORMATION:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

VBOB Member: ☐ Yes ☐ No (not a requirement). Make checks out to VBOB for \$15.00. Orders should be mailed to VBOB Certificate, PO Box 101418, Arlington, VA 22210-4418. Questions can be directed to John D. Bowen, 301-384-6533, Certificate Chairman. Or by e-mail to: johndbowen@earthlink.net

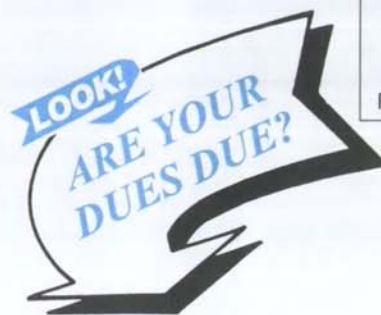
10/18/2008





# VETERANS of the BATTLE of the BULGE

P.O. Box 101418  
Arlington, Virginia 22210-4418



Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Arlington, VA  
Permit No. 468

NOVEMBER, 2008

A018090 08/12/09  
RALPH W. BOZORTH  
608 TREATY RD  
PLYMOUTH MEETING PA 19462-2317



**HAPPY THANKSGIVING  
TO YOU AND YOURS.  
WE'RE THANKFUL FOR THE  
YEARS WE HAVE HAD TOGETHER  
AND HOPE FOR MANY,  
MANY MORE.**

— Detach and Mail —

OFFICIAL USE ONLY



## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

PO Box 101418, Arlington, Virginia 22210-4418

Annual Dues \$15

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Do not write above this line

Do not write above this line

☐ New Member ☐ Renewal - Member # \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

All new members, please provide the following information:

Campaign(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Unit(s) to which assigned during period December 16, 1944 - January 25, 1945 - Division \_\_\_\_\_

Regiment \_\_\_\_\_ Battalion \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Make check or money order payable to VBOB  
and mail with this application to above address:

Applicants Signature \_\_\_\_\_

RECRUITER (Optional)